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WHAT IF™ GHOST RIDER SPIDER-WOMAN CAPTAIN MARVEL WERE VILLAINS?

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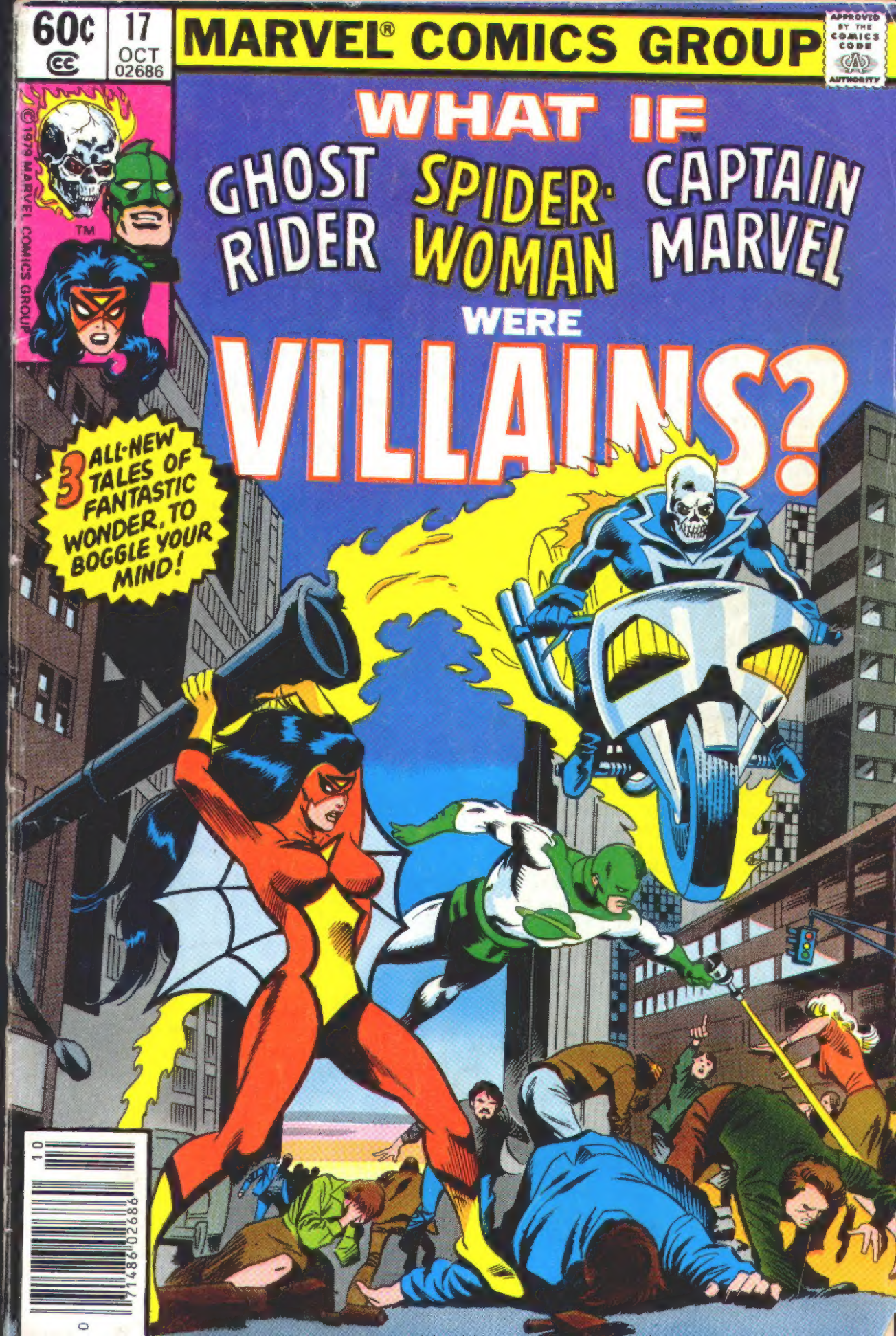
3 ALL-NEW TALES OF FANTASTIC WONDER, TO BOGGLE YOUR MIND!



STAN LEE PRESENTS: A STUNNING SAGA OF AN ALTERNATE REALITY!

WHAT IF... GHOST RIDER, SPIDER-WOMAN AND CAPTAIN MARVEL HAD REMAINED VILLAINS?

STEVEN GRANT — STORY | CARMINE INFANTINO — ART | CHIC STONE — SPLASH INKS | TOM ORZECHOWSKI — LETTERING | M. GRUENWALD — EDITOR | J. SHOOTER — ED.-IN-CHIEF

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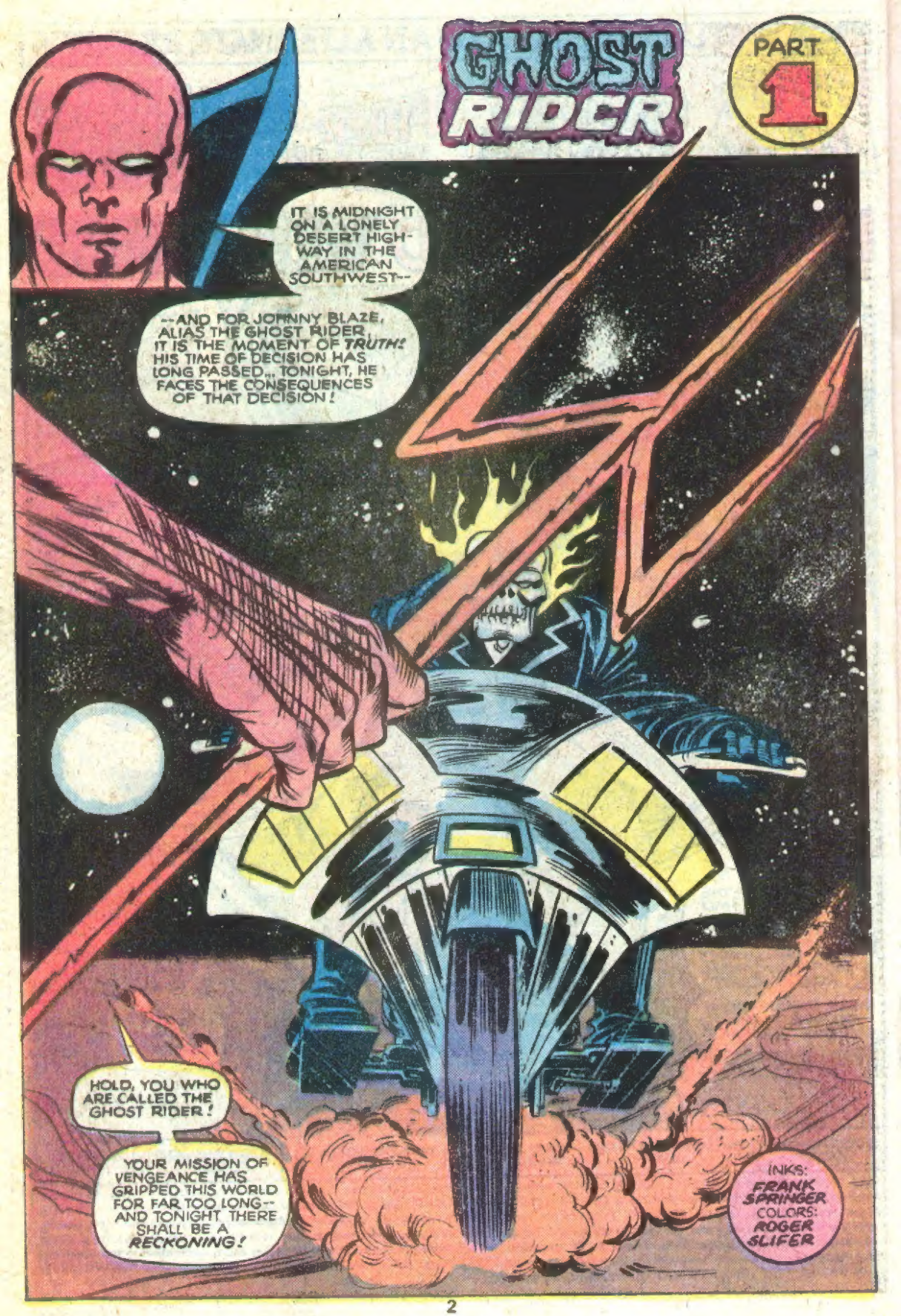
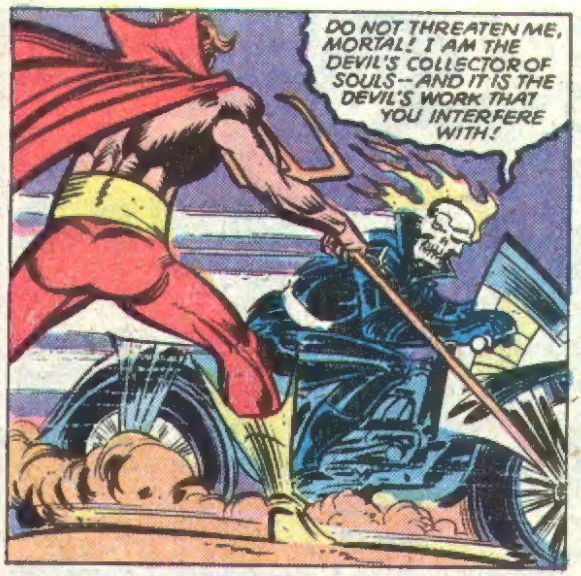
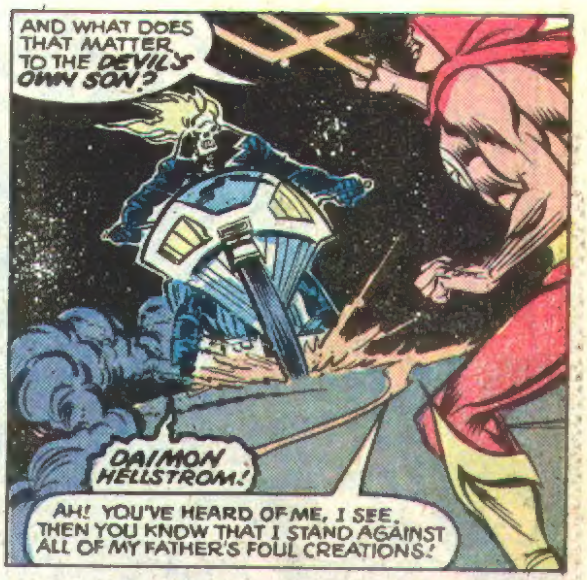
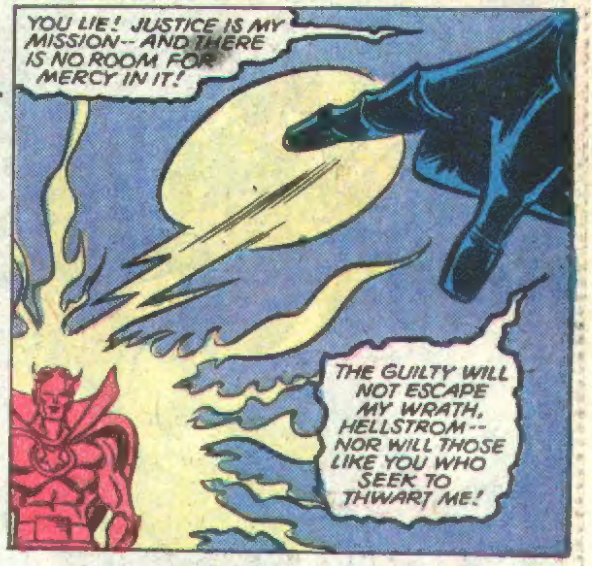

GHOST RIDER
PART 1
IT IS MIDNIGHT ON A LONELY DESERT HIGHWAY IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST--
--AND FOR JOHNNY BLAZE, ALIAS THE GHOST RIDER, IT IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH! HIS TIME OF DECISION HAS LONG PASSED... TONIGHT, HE FACES THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT DECISION!
HOLD, YOU WHO ARE CALLED THE GHOST RIDER!
YOUR MISSION OF VENGEANCE HAS GRIPPED THIS WORLD FOR FAR TOO LONG-- AND TONIGHT THERE SHALL BE A RECKONING!
INKS: FRANK SPRINGER
COLORS: ROGER SLIFER







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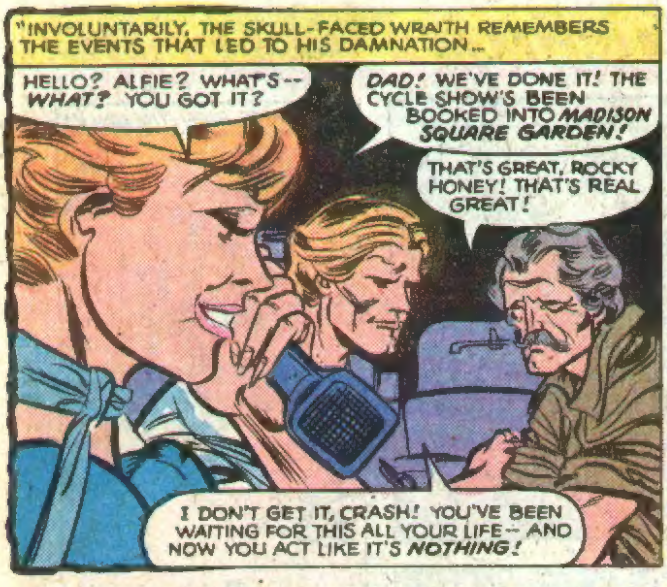
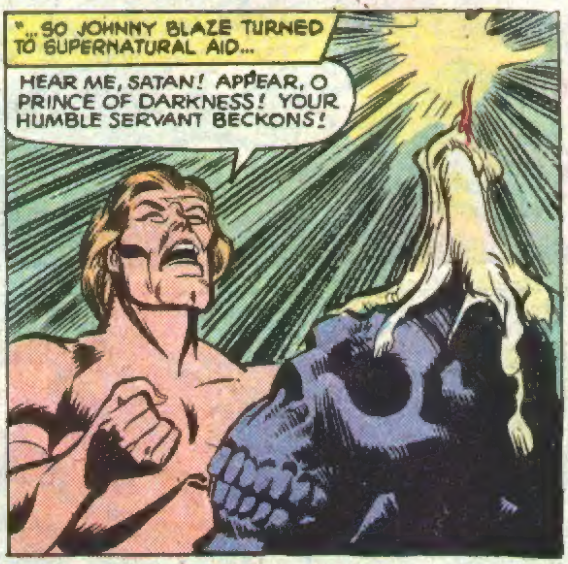
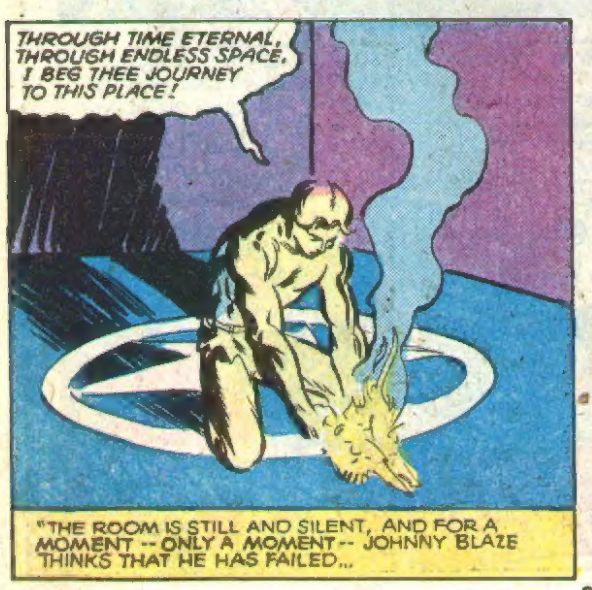
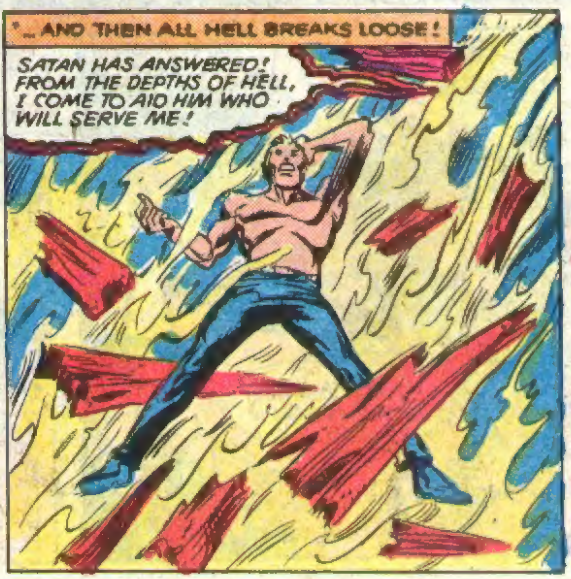

"INVOLUNTARILY, THE SKULL-FACED WRAITH REMEMBERS THE EVENTS THAT LED TO HIS DAMNATION...
HELLO? ALFIE? WHAT'S -- WHAT? YOU GOT IT?
DAD! WE'VE DONE IT! THE CYCLE SHOW'S BEEN BOOKED INTO MADISON SQUARE GARDEN!
THAT'S GREAT, ROCKY HONEY! THAT'S REAL GREAT!
I DON'T GET IT, CRASH! YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS ALL YOUR LIFE -- AND NOW YOU ACT LIKE IT'S NOTHING!

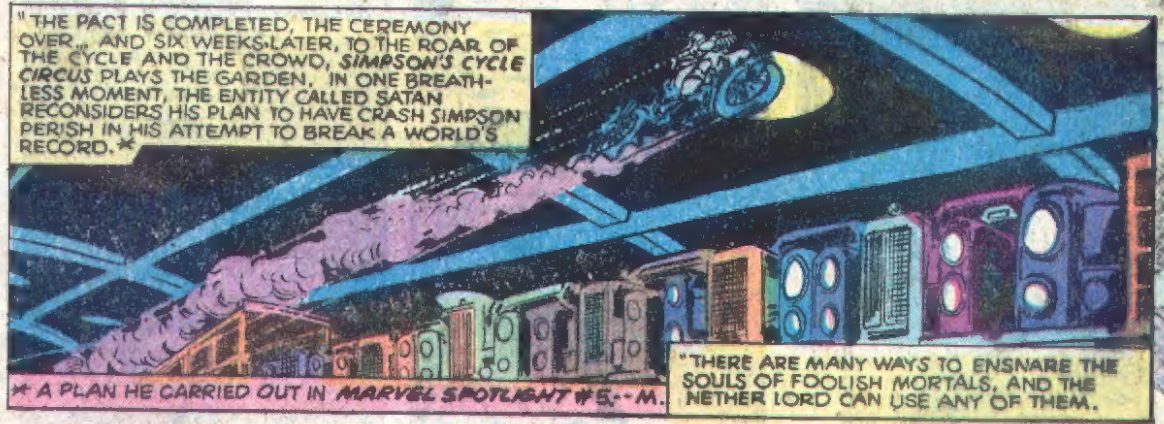
IT'S NOTHING TO ME, KID! I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO BE AROUND TO SEE IT!
SEE, THE DOC JUST TOLD ME -- I'VE GOT CANCER. REAL BAD! HE GIVES ME A MONTH AT MOST. I KNOW THE SCHEDULE -- WE WON'T SEE THE GARDEN FOR SIX WEEKS!

"IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT JOHNNY BLAZE REALIZED HOW MUCH HE LOVED CRASH SIMPSON. HOW MUCH HE NEEDED THE MAN WHO HAD RAISED HIM LIKE A SON...
WELL? WHAT'RE YOU TWO GAWKING AT?
G'WAN! GET OUT OF HERE... GIVE AN OLD MAN SOME PEACE!
"NOW, TO SEE HIM SO CLOSE TO HIS LIFE'S DREAM... TO SEE HIM CRUELLY CHEATED OF IT... IT WAS MORE THAN THE YOUNG MAN COULD BEAR...


"...SO JOHNNY BLAZE TURNED TO SUPERNATURAL AID...
HEAR ME, SATAN! APPEAR, O PRINCE OF DARKNESS! YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT BECKONS!


THROUGH TIME ETERNAL, THROUGH ENDLESS SPACE, I BEG THEE JOURNEY TO THIS PLACE!
"THE ROOM IS STILL AND SILENT, AND FOR A MOMENT -- ONLY A MOMENT -- JOHNNY BLAZE THINKS THAT HE HAS FAILED...


"...AND THEN ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!
SATAN HAS ANSWERED! FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL, I COME TO AID HIM WHO WILL SERVE ME!



* A PLAN HE CARRIED OUT IN MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #5.--M.

"LATER, BACK AT HOME...
'S FUNNY... SO HOT IN HERE, BUT I'M SHIVERING LIKE CRAZY... GOT TO PUT A COAT ON... AM I SICK OR--?
JOHNNY BLAZE!

NO! IT CAN'T BE YOU-- NOT NOW! I'M NOT READY YET!
SILENCE, WEAKLING! I KEPT MY BARGAIN! NOW I CLAIM MY REWARD--

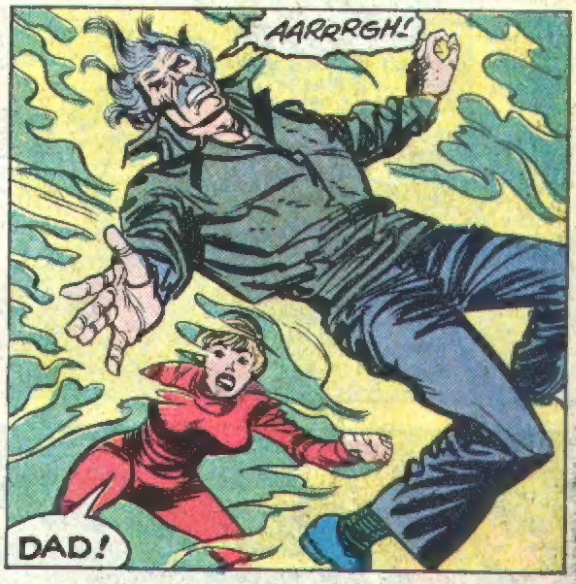
--YOUR VERY SOUL!
STAY AWAY FROM ME! DON'T TOUCH ME!
NOOOOOOO!
OH, MY LORD! THAT'S JOHNNY!

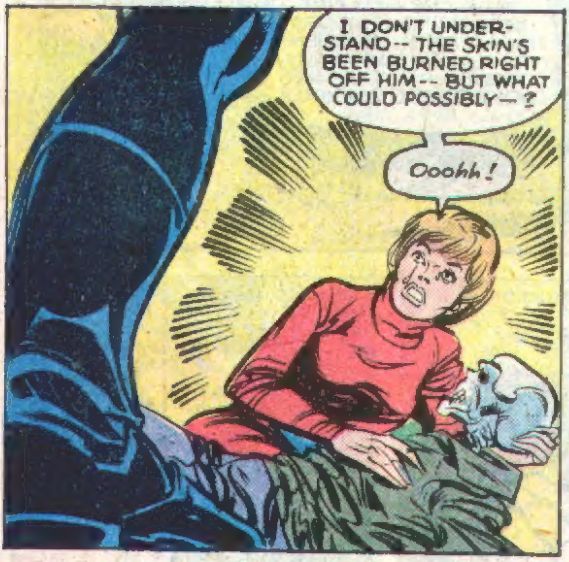
JOHNNY! WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHO WAS IN HERE, JOHNNY?

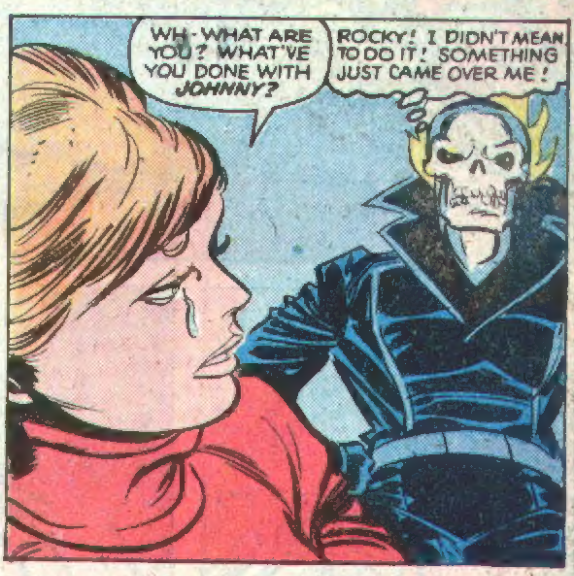
LOOK, JOHNNY, I KNOW WE HAVEN'T BEEN ON THE BEST OF TERMS, BUT IF YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE...

YOU HAVE SEEN MORE THAN YOU SHOULD HAVE, MORTAL...

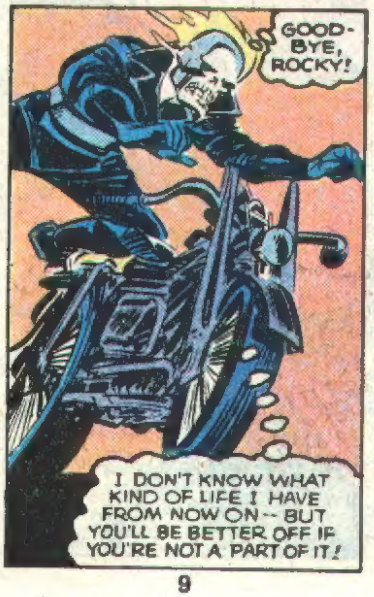
TH-THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A MASK-- BUT HE'S GOT A BLAZING SKULL!
DID YOU TALK TO JOHNNY? DAD?
ROCKY! GET OUT OF HERE-- RIGHT NOW, BEFORE--


AARRRGH!
DAD!

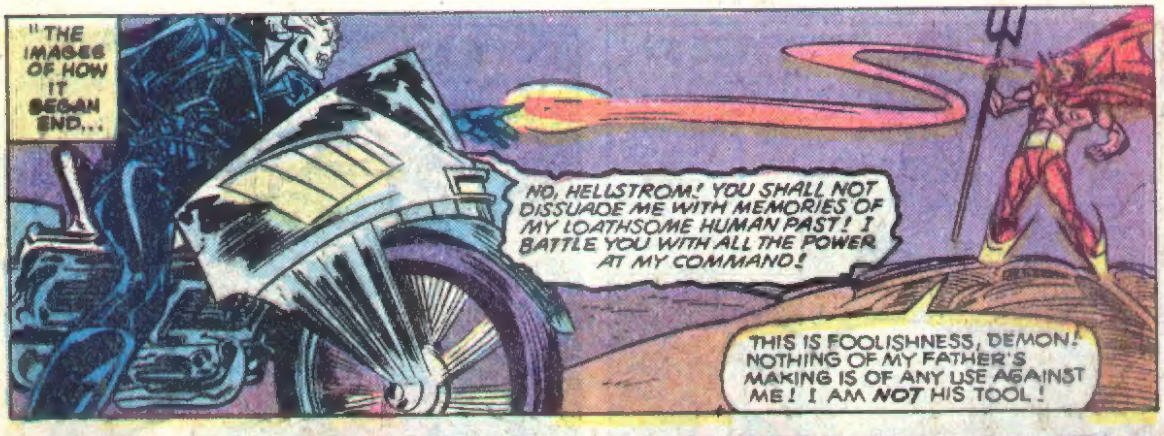

I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- THE SKIN'S BEEN BURNED RIGHT OFF HIM-- BUT WHAT COULD POSSIBLY--?
Ooohh!

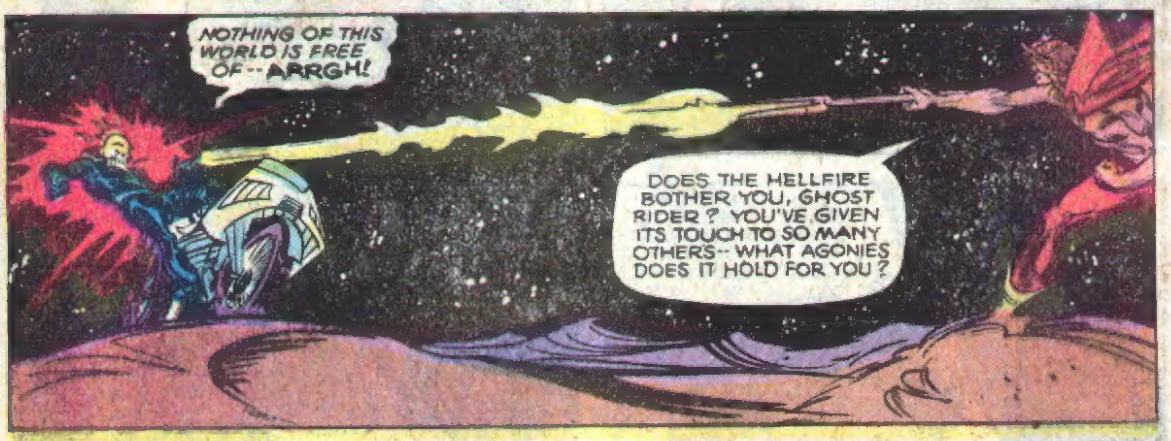

WH-WHAT ARE YOU? WHAT'VE YOU DONE WITH JOHNNY?
ROCKY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT! SOMETHING JUST CAME OVER ME!

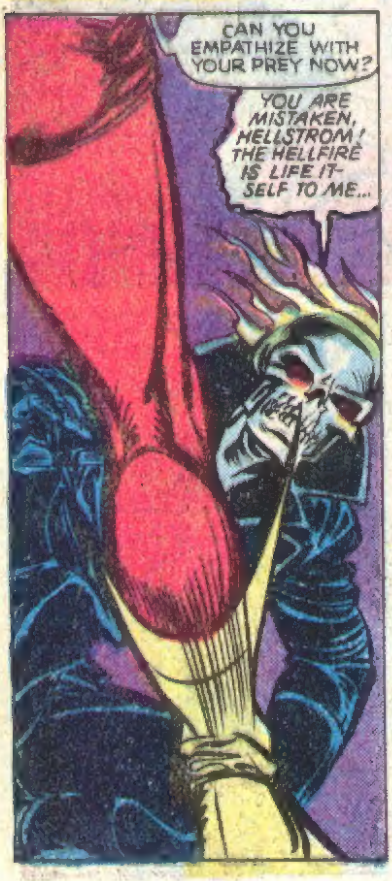
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN TO YOU THAT I KILLED YOUR FATHER? OR THAT I COULD KILL YOU AT ANY MOMENT?

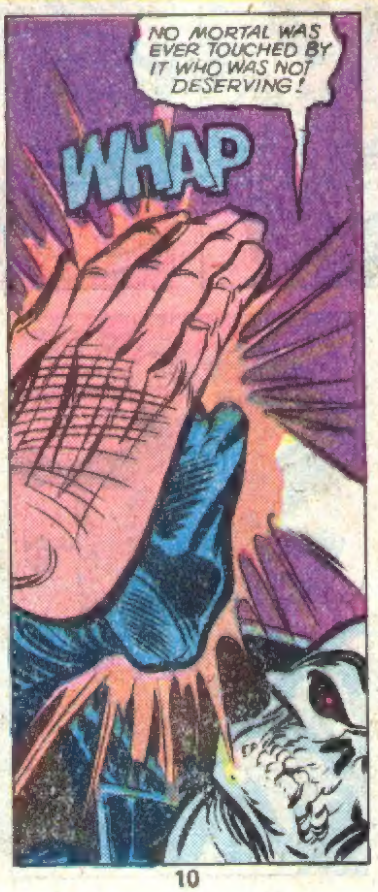

GOOD-BYE, ROCKY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF LIFE I HAVE FROM NOW ON-- BUT YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF IF YOU'RE NOT A PART OF IT!

HEY! WHAT THE DEVIL'S THAT?
HE-- HE'S SOME KIND OF DEMON! HE KILLED MY FATHER!

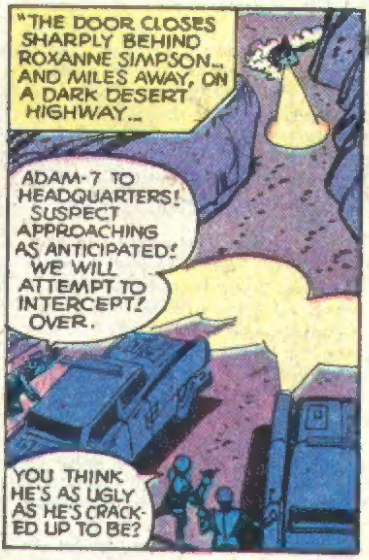

"THE IMAGES OF HOW IT BEGAN END...
NO, HELLSTROM! YOU SHALL NOT DISSUADE ME WITH MEMORIES OF MY LOATHSOME HUMAN PAST! I BATTLE YOU WITH ALL THE POWER AT MY COMMAND!
THIS IS FOOLISHNESS, DEMON! NOTHING OF MY FATHER'S MAKING IS OF ANY USE AGAINST ME! I AM NOT HIS TOOL!

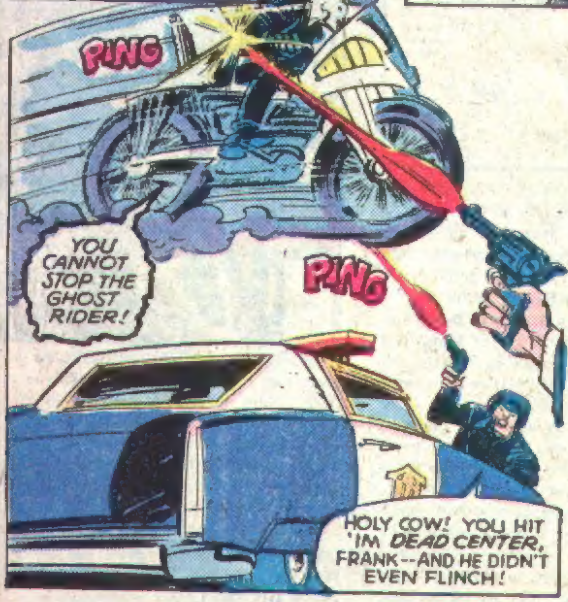

NOTHING OF THIS WORLD IS FREE OF-- ARRGH!
DOES THE HELLFIRE BOTHER YOU, GHOST RIDER? YOU'VE GIVEN ITS TOUCH TO SO MANY OTHERS-- WHAT AGONIES DOES IT HOLD FOR YOU?


CAN YOU EMPATHIZE WITH YOUR PREY NOW?
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, HELLSTROM! THE HELLFIRE IS LIFE IT-SELF TO ME...


NO MORTAL WAS EVER TOUCHED BY IT WHO WAS NOT DESERVING!
WHAP

YOU LIE, GHOST RIDER!
DID YOUR FOSTER-FATHER DO ANYTHING TO CURSE HIMSELF? DID ROXANNE SIMPSON? DID THEY?!





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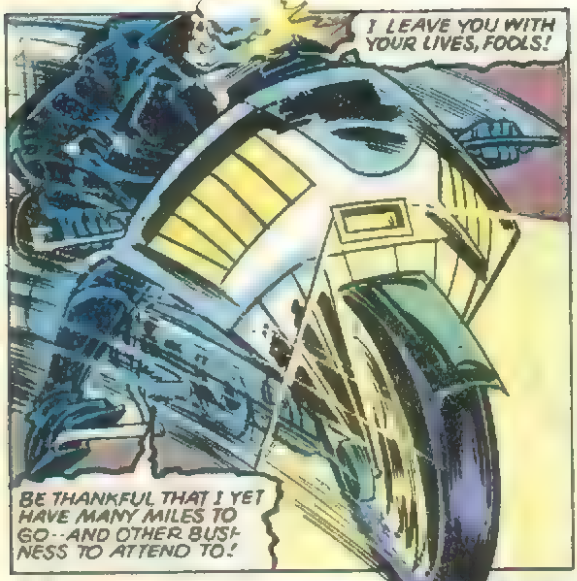
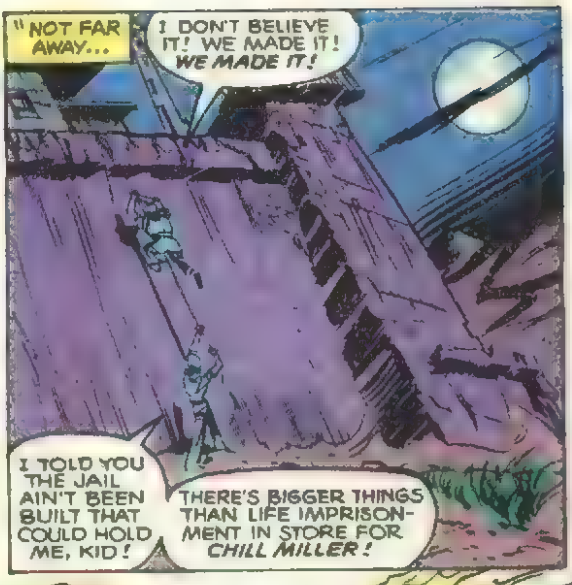
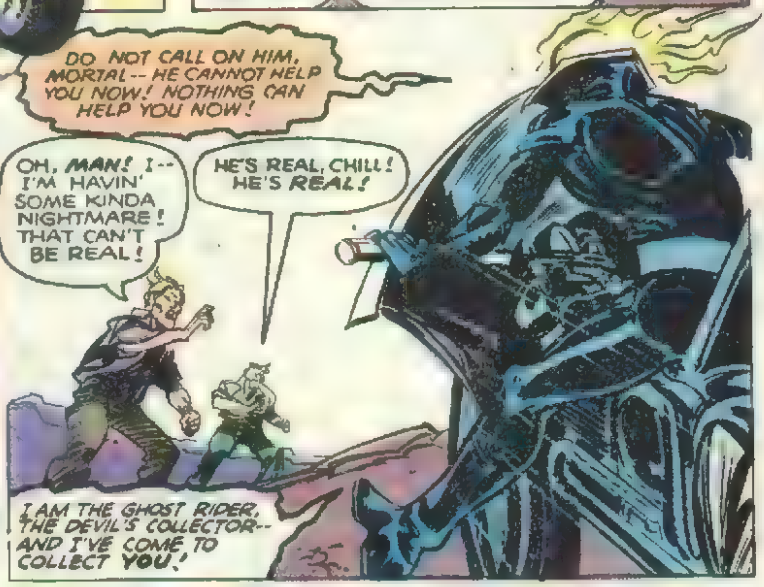
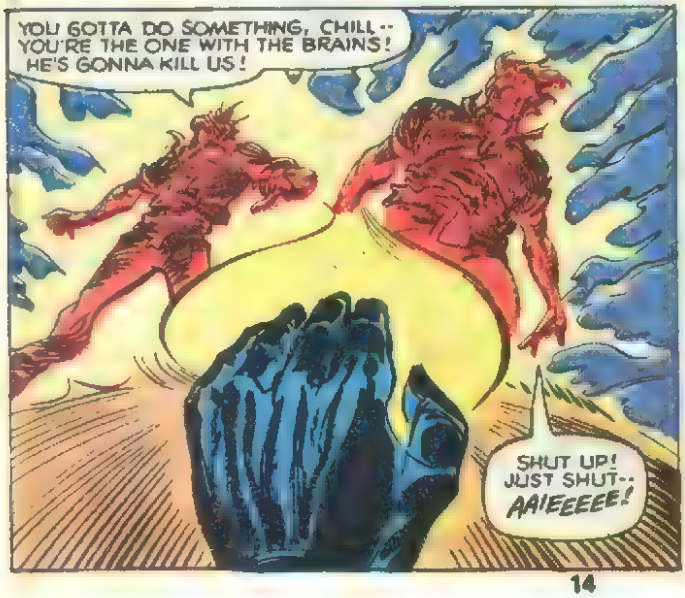

I LEAVE YOU WITH YOUR LIVES, FOOLS!
BE THANKFUL THAT I YET HAVE MANY MILES TO GO--AND OTHER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!


"NOT FAR AWAY...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WE MADE IT! WE MADE IT!
I TOLD YOU THE JAIL AIN'T BEEN BUILT THAT COULD HOLD ME, KID!
THERE'S BIGGER THINGS THAN LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN STORE FOR CHILL MILLER!

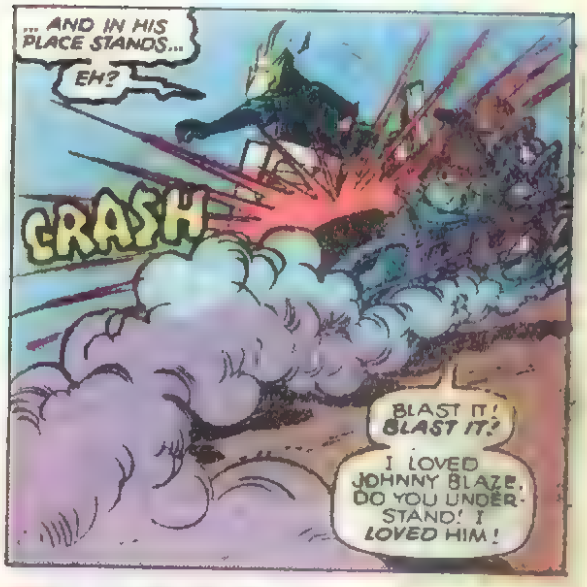
SO WHERE'S THE CLOTHES AND MONEY THAT YOUR GANG STASHED HERE?
S'POSED TO BE 500 YARDS FROM THE SOUTH-- WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?!


DO NOT CALL ON HIM, MORTAL-- HE CANNOT HELP YOU NOW! NOTHING CAN HELP YOU NOW!
OH, MAN! I-- I'M HAVIN' SOME KINDA NIGHTMARE! THAT CAN'T BE REAL!
HE'S REAL, CHILL! HE'S REAL!
I AM THE GHOST RIDER, THE DEVIL'S COLLECTOR-- AND I'VE COME TO COLLECT YOU!

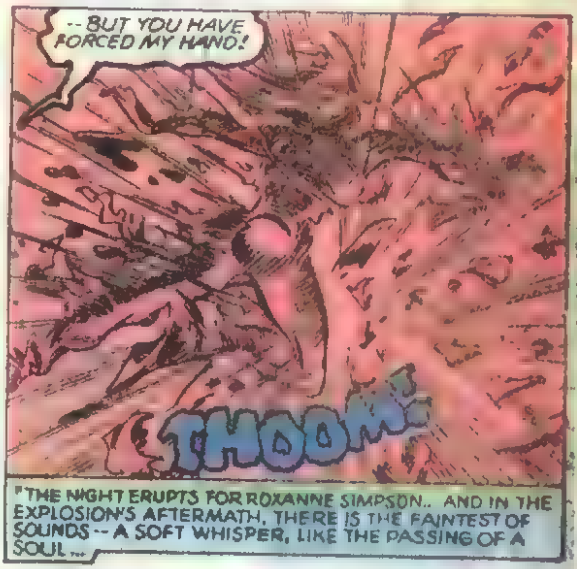

YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING, CHILL-- YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE BRAINS! HE'S GONNA KILL US!
SHUT UP! JUST SHUT-- AAIEEEEE!

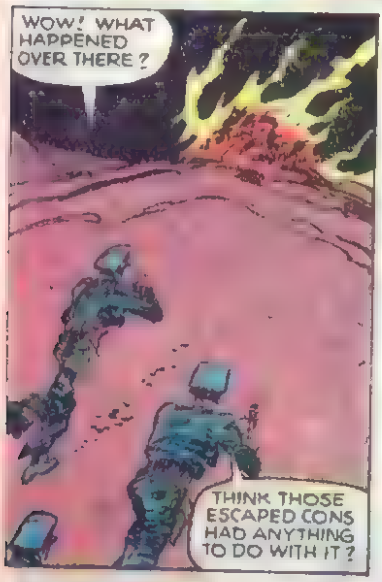
HAVING FUN, JOHNNY? PROUD OF YOURSELF?
GO AWAY, MORTAL! I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU!

THE ONE YOU SPEAK OF I HAS LONG SINCE GONE TO A DESTINY FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY YOU COULD HAVE PLANNED FOR HIM...


... AND IN HIS PLACE STANDS...
EH?
CRASH
BLAST IT! BLAST IT!
I LOVED JOHNNY BLAZE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND! I LOVED HIM!

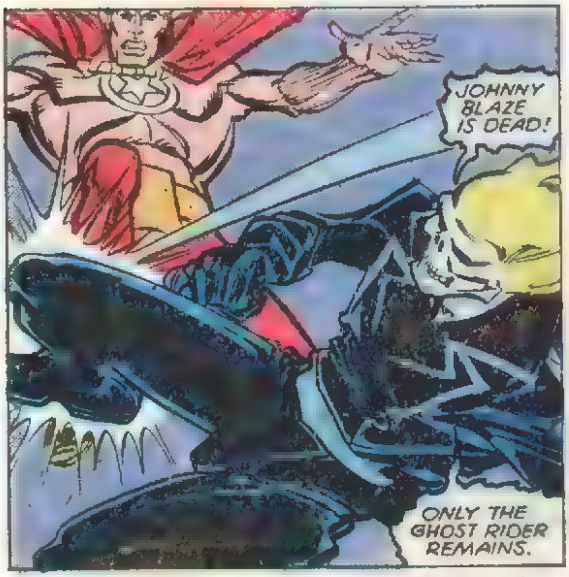
FOOL!
IF JOHNNY IS TRULY GONE, BECAUSE OF YOU--
WELL, THAT'S JUST ONE MORE THING YOU OWE ME FOR!
I DID NOT WANT TO DO THIS, MORTAL--

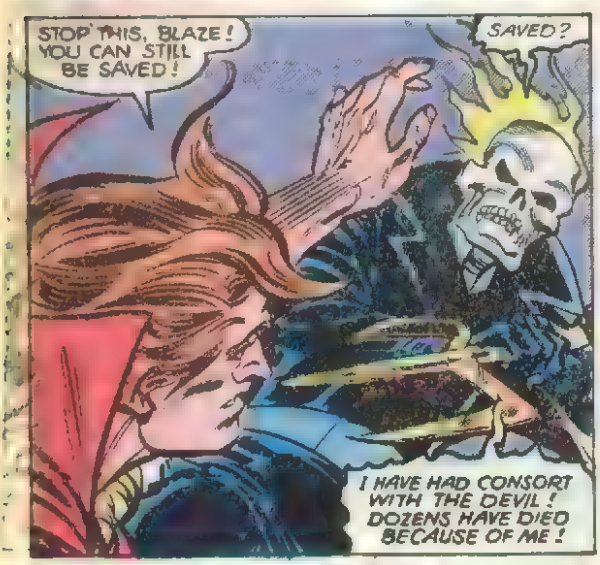

--BUT YOU HAVE FORCED MY HAND!
THOOM!
"THE NIGHT ERUPTS FOR ROXANNE SIMPSON.. AND IN THE EXPLOSION'S AFTERMATH, THERE IS THE FAINTEST OF SOUNDS -- A SOFT WHISPER, LIKE THE PASSING OF A SOUL...

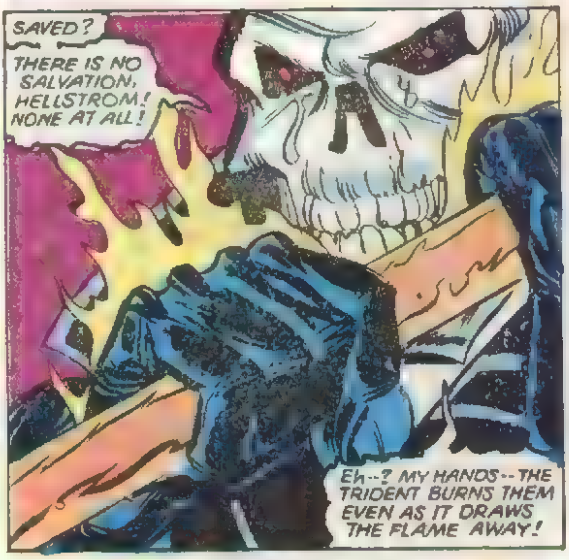

WOW! WHAT HAPPENED OVER THERE?
THINK THOSE ESCAPED CONS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT?

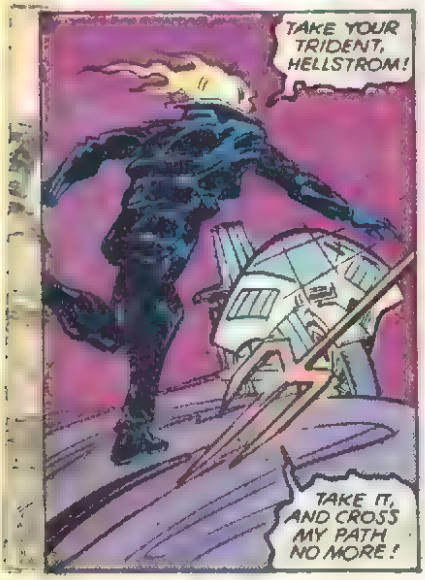
NAW. THIS IS A GIRL -- OR WHAT'S LEFT OF HER!
HEY! OVER THERE!

SO!
THERE IS SOMETHING OF THE SOUL OF JOHNNY BLAZE LEFT IN YOU!
NO! YOU ARE WRONG, HELLSTROM! WRONG!

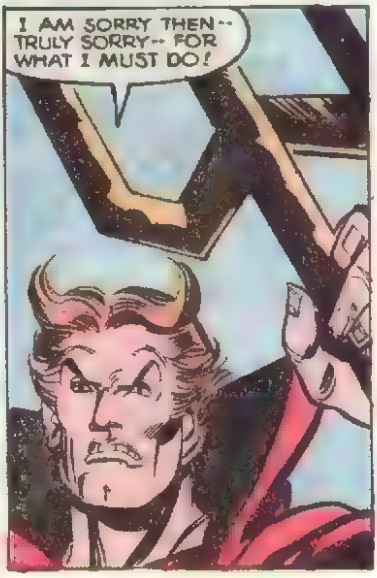

JOHNNY BLAZE IS DEAD!
ONLY THE GHOST RIDER REMAINS.


STOP THIS, BLAZE! YOU CAN STILL BE SAVED!
SAVED?
I HAVE HAD CONSORT WITH THE DEVIL! DOZENS HAVE DIED BECAUSE OF ME!


SAVED?
THERE IS NO SALVATION, HELLSTROM! NONE AT ALL!
Eh--? MY HANDS--THE TRIDENT BURNS THEM EVEN AS IT DRAWS THE FLAME AWAY!

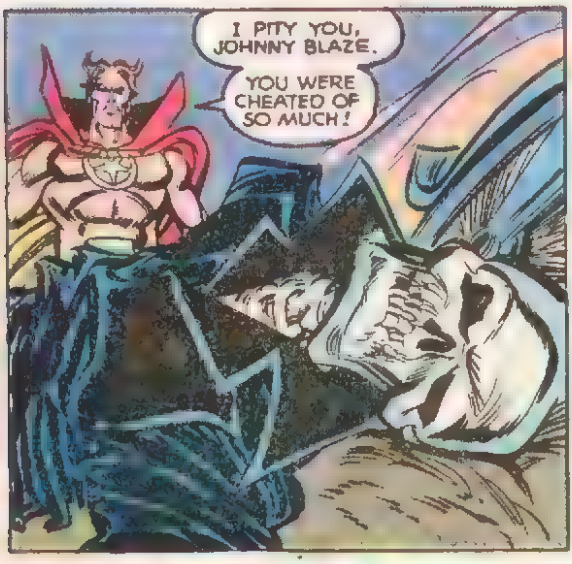

TAKE YOUR TRIDENT, HELLSTROM!
TAKE IT, AND CROSS MY PATH NO MORE!

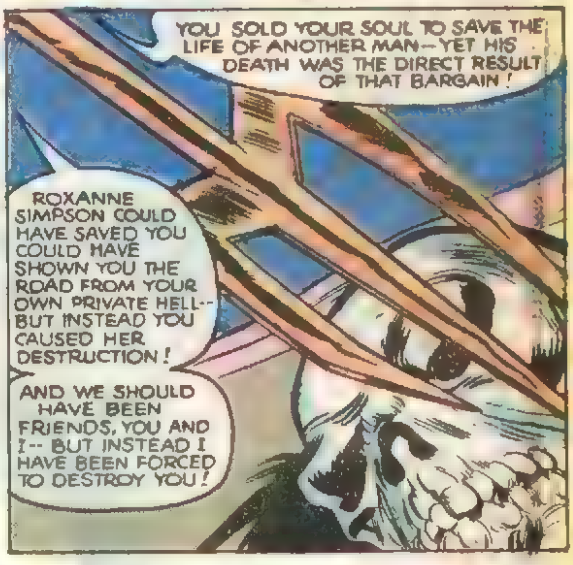
BLAZE! WAIT!
NO--YOU HAVE PLACED YOURSELF BEYOND MY HELP!

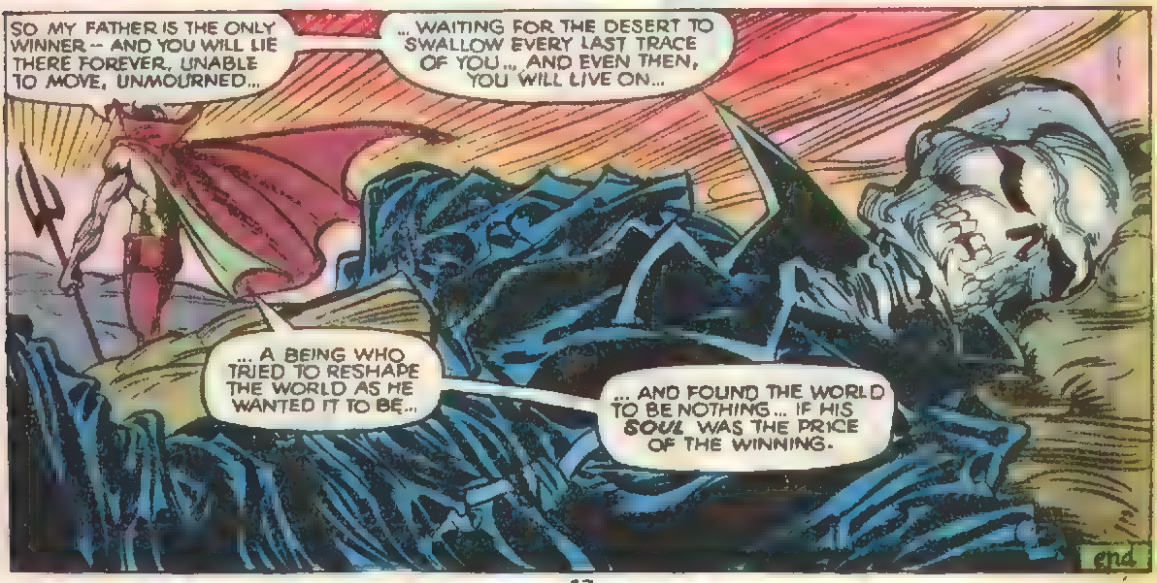

I AM SORRY THEN--TRULY SORRY--FOR WHAT I MUST DO!

WHAT IS THIS?
MY FLAME-- SOMETHING IS DRAWING IT AWAY FROM ME!

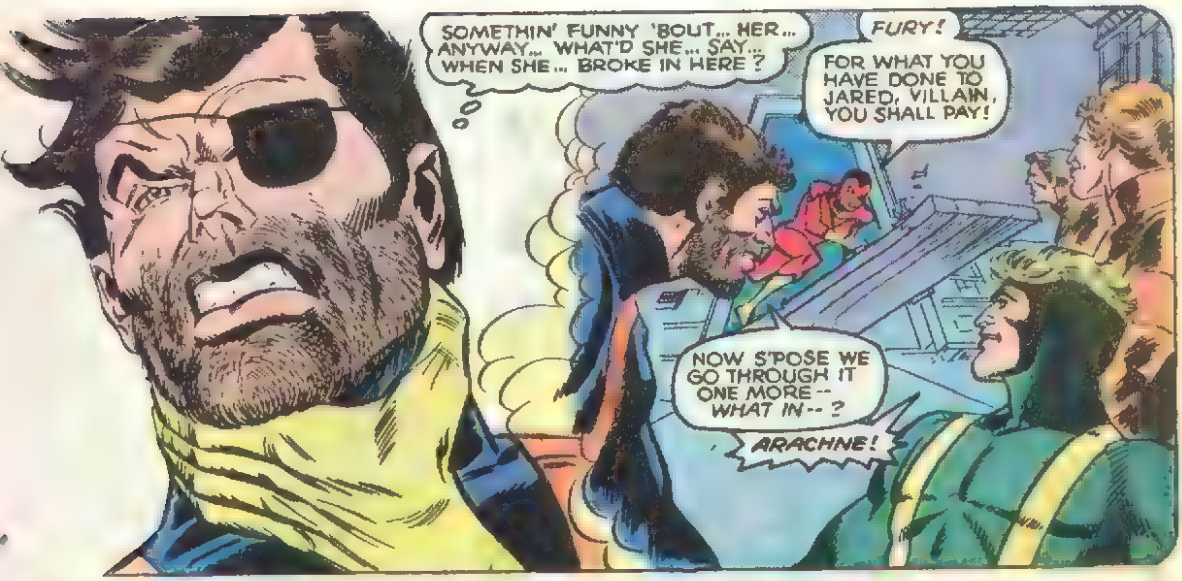
AND NOW STIFFNESS SETTLES ON MY LIMBS! MY BIKE IS OUT OF CONTROL!
I CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE-- CAN'T MOVE! HELP ME, SOMEONE!
HELP MEEEEEEEEE.

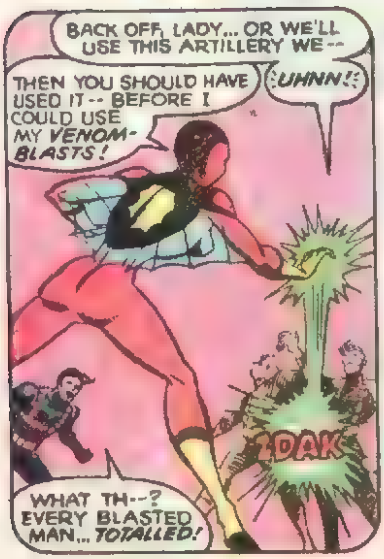

I PITY YOU, JOHNNY BLAZE.
YOU WERE CHEATED OF SO MUCH!

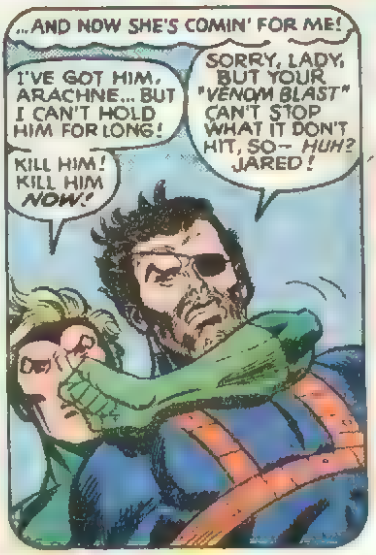

YOU SOLD YOUR SOUL TO SAVE THE LIFE OF ANOTHER MAN--YET HIS DEATH WAS THE DIRECT RESULT OF THAT BARGAIN!
ROXANNE SIMPSON COULD HAVE SAVED YOU COULD HAVE SHOWN YOU THE ROAD FROM YOUR OWN PRIVATE HELL-- BUT INSTEAD YOU CAUSED HER DESTRUCTION!
AND WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS, YOU AND I-- BUT INSTEAD I HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DESTROY YOU!

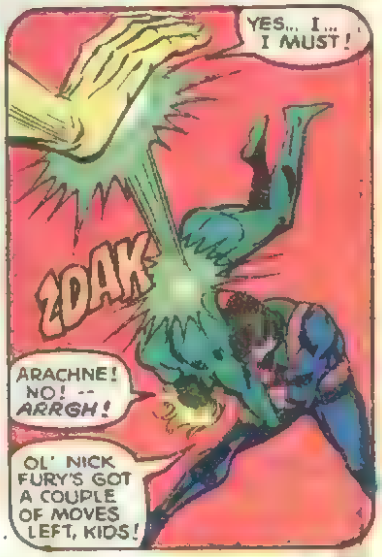

SO MY FATHER IS THE ONLY WINNER-- AND YOU WILL LIE THERE FOREVER, UNABLE TO MOVE, UNMOURNED...
... WAITING FOR THE DESERT TO SWALLOW EVERY LAST TRACE OF YOU... AND EVEN THEN, YOU WILL LIVE ON...
... A BEING WHO TRIED TO RESHAPE THE WORLD AS HE WANTED IT TO BE...
... AND FOUND THE WORLD TO BE NOTHING... IF HIS SOUL WAS THE PRICE OF THE WINNING.
end

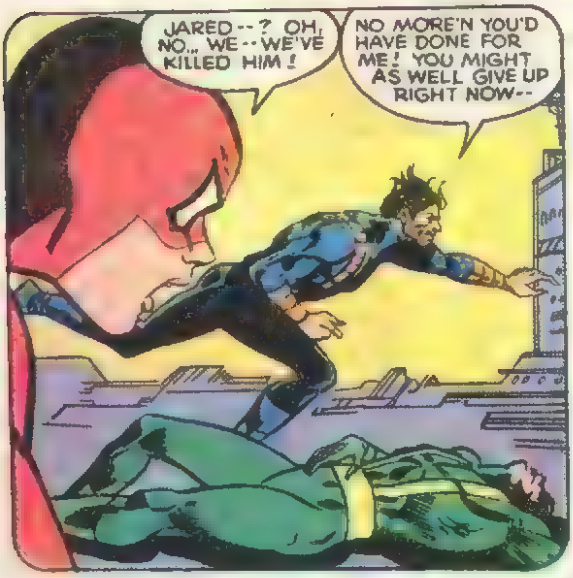
HER NAME IS JESSICA DREW, THOUGH SHE IS NOT YET AWARE OF THAT. DUPED INTO THE SERVICE OF THE SUBVERSIVE GROUP HYDRA, SHE HAS INVADED SHIELD'S* MEDITERRANEAN BRANCH TO FREE HER LOVER, JARED. NOW JARED LIES DYING, AND IN HER HANDS JESSICA HOLDS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER SHIELD DIRECTOR NICK FURY.
PART 2
YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY SEEN WHAT HAPPENED WHEN A FREAK ACCIDENT ENABLED JESSICA TO SEE HYDRA'S TREACHERY.** BUT NOW YOU WILL SEE NO SUCH WHIM OF CHANCE... AND LEARN HOW IT AFFECTS...
THE SPIDER-WOMAN
LISTEN, LADY! YOU AIN'T GOT... A CHANCE! THAT... ALARM'LL BRING--
BLASTED DAME'S GOT THE STRENGTH OF AN ELEPHANT-- ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND I WON'T HAVE A NECK LEFT!
NOTHING! NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU NOW, NICK FURY!
INKS: MIKE ESPOSITO
COLORS CARL GAFFORD
* SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE, LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION.
** MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #32.--m











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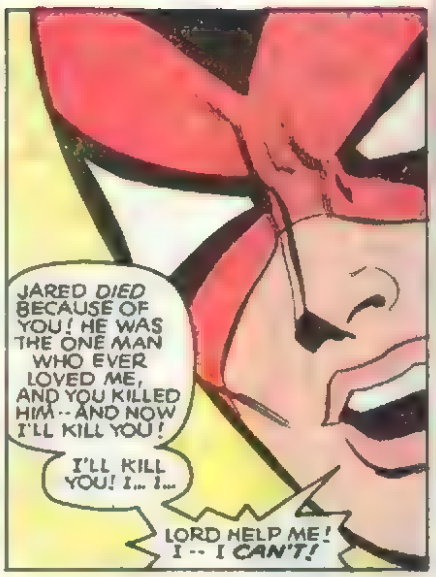
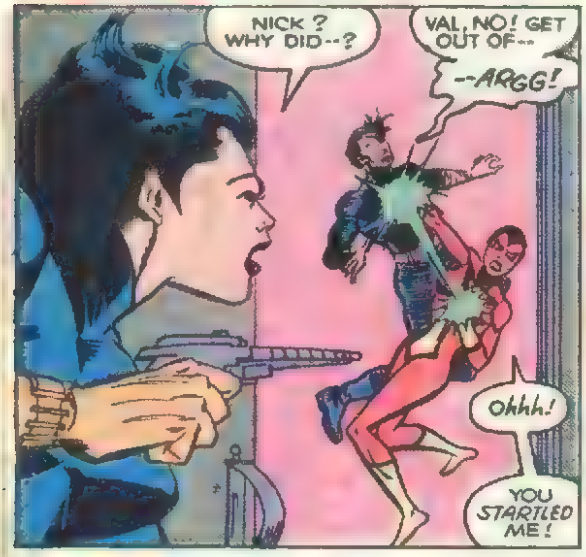
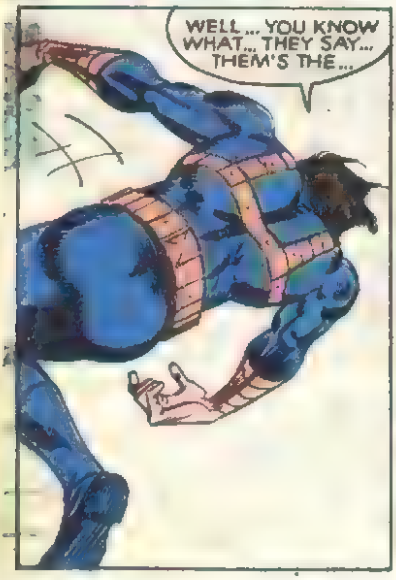
YOU THINK... SHIELD'S THE BAD GUYS... IZZAT IT? YOU GOT IT... ALL BACK-WARDS... LADY...
SHUT UP, FURY! SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR LIES!

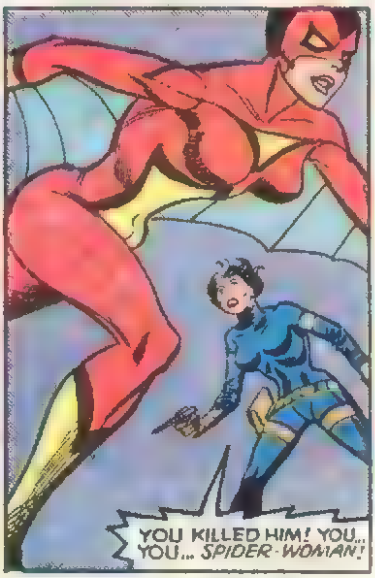

JARED DIED BECAUSE OF YOU! HE WAS THE ONE MAN WHO EVER LOVED ME, AND YOU KILLED HIM -- AND NOW I'LL KILL YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU! I... I...
LORD HELP ME! I -- I CAN'T!


NICK? WHY DID--?
VAL, NO! GET OUT OF--
--ARGG!
Ohhh!
YOU STARTLED ME!

THOUGHT FOR A MINUTE... YOU REALLY MEANT IT... 'BOUT NOT BEIN' ABLE TO... KILL ME...
I... I DIDN'T MEAN TO! THE NOISE -- I JUST REACTED!

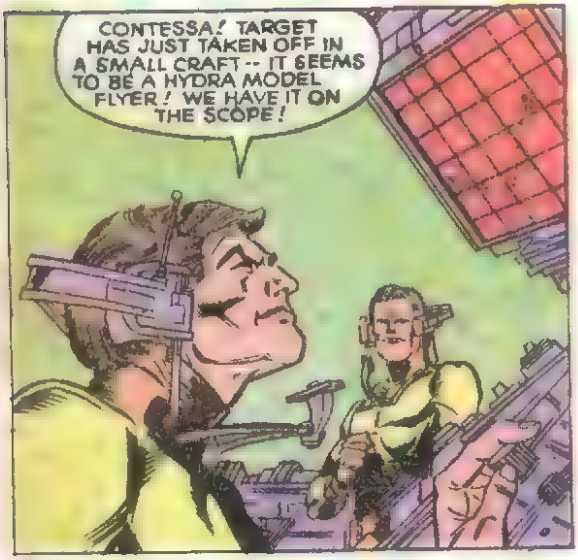

WELL... YOU KNOW WHAT... THEY SAY... THEM'S THE...

NICK? GET UP-- SAY SOMETHING! YOU CAN'T BE DEAD! NICK!

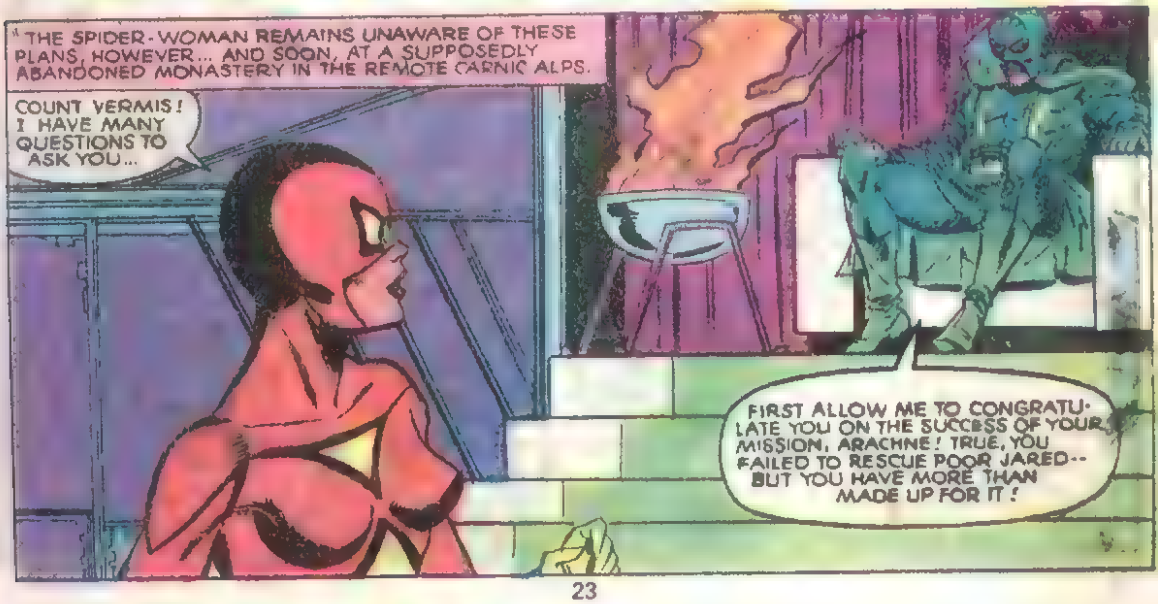

YOU KILLED HIM! YOU... YOU... SPIDER-WOMAN!

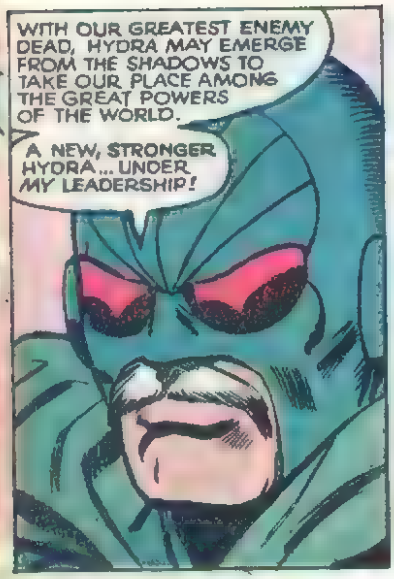
NOW WHAT DO I DO? IF WHAT FURY SAID IS TRUE, THEN I'M A MURDERER! I'LL BE HUNTED... AN OUTCAST...
HYDRA! EVEN WITH JARED GONE, I'M ONE OF THEM NOW! IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I HAVE LEFT TO GO!

ATTENTION, ALL UNITS!
TARGET HAS JUST ESCAPED INTO BUILDING'S VENTILATION DUCTS! TRACK HER AND REPORT BACK TO ME!

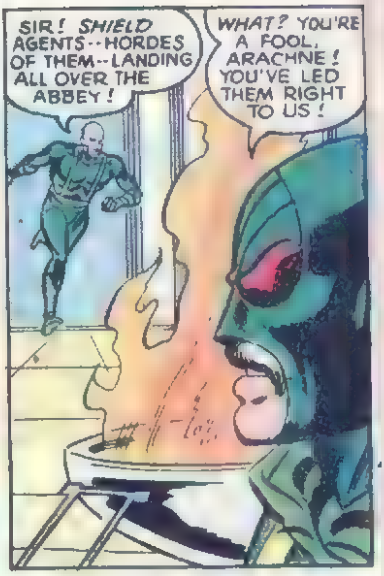

CONTESSA! TARGET HAS JUST TAKEN OFF IN A SMALL CRAFT -- IT SEEMS TO BE A HYDRA MODEL FLYER! WE HAVE IT ON THE SCOPE!

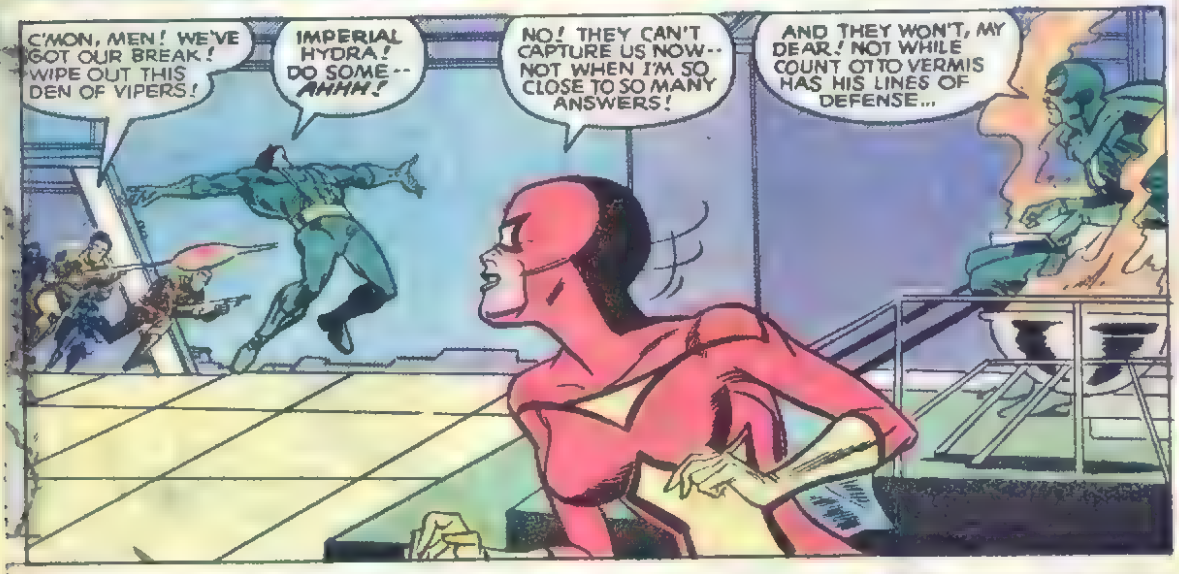
KEEP TRACK OF IT, AND GET EVERY AVAILABLE MAN TOGETHER! WE'RE GOING TO GET THE WOMAN WHO KILLED NICK FURY--AND THE PEOPLE WHO SENT HER!

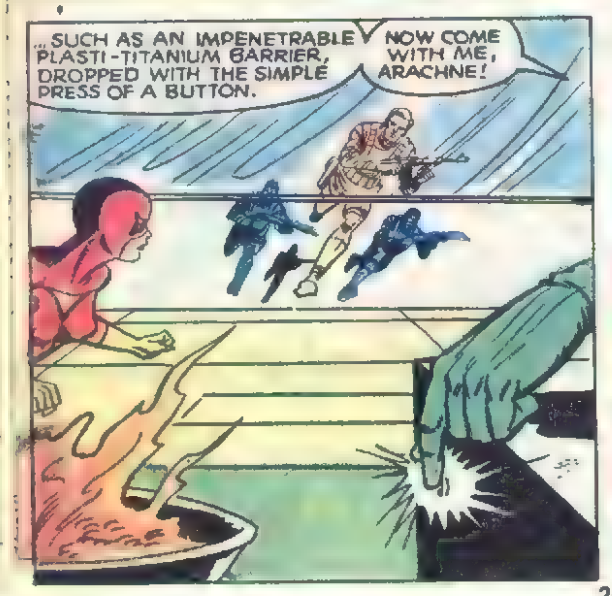

THE SPIDER-WOMAN REMAINS UNAWARE OF THESE PLANS, HOWEVER... AND SOON, AT A SUPPOSEDLY ABANDONED MONASTERY IN THE REMOTE CARNIC ALPS.
COUNT VERMIS! I HAVE MANY QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU...
FIRST ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE SUCCESS OF YOUR MISSION, ARACHNE! TRUE, YOU FAILED TO RESCUE POOR JARED-- BUT YOU HAVE MORE THAN MADE UP FOR IT!


WITH OUR GREATEST ENEMY DEAD, HYDRA MAY EMERGE FROM THE SHADOWS TO TAKE OUR PLACE AMONG THE GREAT POWERS OF THE WORLD.
A NEW, STRONGER HYDRA... UNDER MY LEADERSHIP!

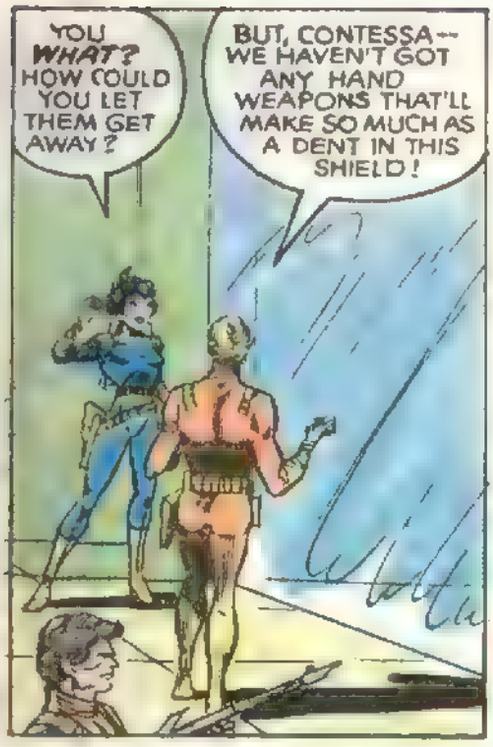
WHAT ABOUT ME, VERMIS? YOU SAID JUST BEFORE I LEFT THAT YOU HAD ALMOST UNRAVELLED THE MYSTERY OF MY PAST! WHO AM I, VERMIS?

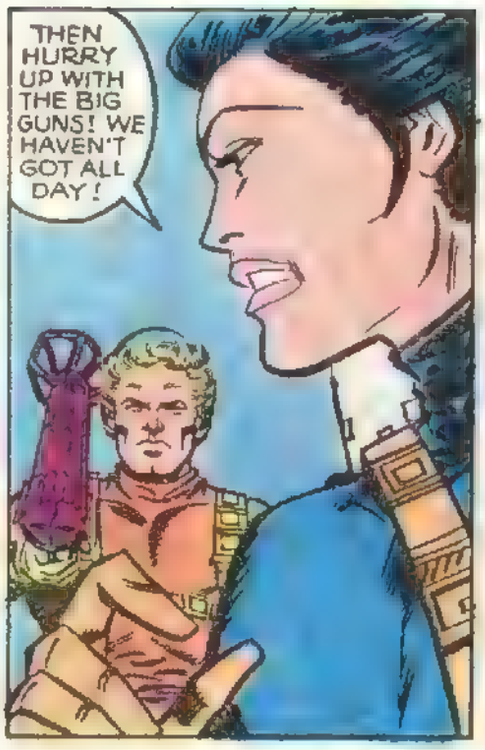

SIR! SHIELD AGENTS--HORDES OF THEM--LANDING ALL OVER THE ABBEY!
WHAT? YOU'RE A FOOL, ARACHNE! YOU'VE LED THEM RIGHT TO US!


C'MON, MEN! WE'VE GOT OUR BREAK! WIPE OUT THIS DEN OF VIPERS!
IMPERIAL HYDRA! DO SOME-- AHHH!
NO! THEY CAN'T CAPTURE US NOW-- NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE TO SO MANY ANSWERS!
AND THEY WON'T, MY DEAR! NOT WHILE COUNT OTTO VERMIS HAS HIS LINES OF DEFENSE...

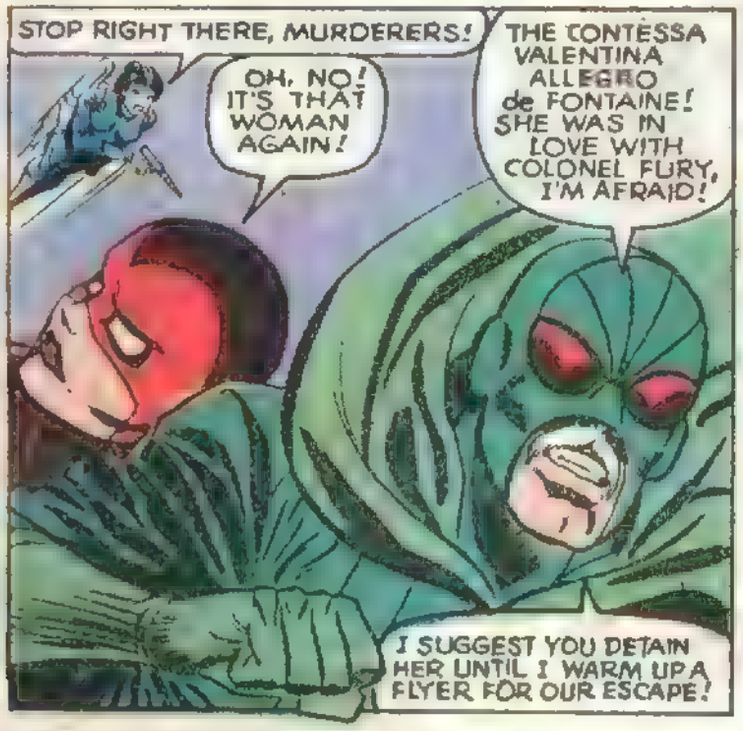

...SUCH AS AN IMPENETRABLE PLASTI-TITANIUM BARRIER, DROPPED WITH THE SIMPLE PRESS OF A BUTTON.
NOW COME WITH ME, ARACHNE!

B-- BUT YOUR MEN... THEY'RE BEING SLAUGHTERED...
FOLLOWERS ARE A PENNY A POUND, MY DEAR. PRESERVATION IS FITTING ONLY FOR THE SUPERIOR--AND THE UNIQUE...


YOU WHAT? HOW COULD YOU LET THEM GET AWAY?
BUT, CONTESSA -- WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY HAND WEAPONS THAT'LL MAKE SO MUCH AS A DENT IN THIS SHIELD!


THEN HURRY UP WITH THE BIG GUNS! WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY!

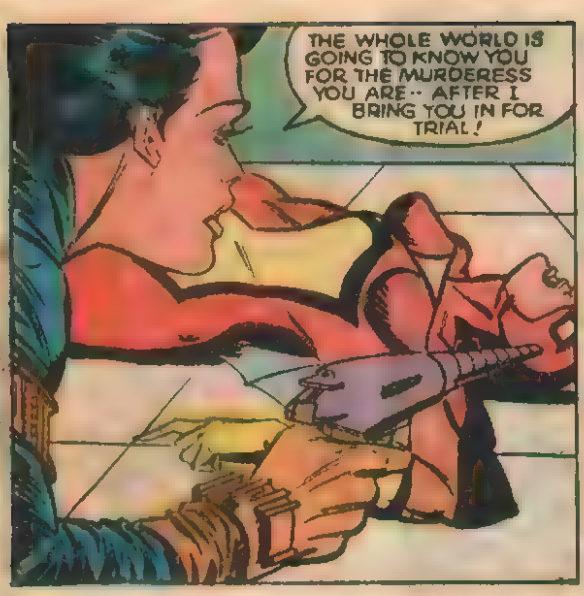
CRAAACH


STOP RIGHT THERE, MURDERERS!
OH, NO! IT'S THAT WOMAN AGAIN!
THE CONTESSA VALENTINA ALLEGRO de FONTAINE! SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH COLONEL FURY, I'M AFRAID!
I SUGGEST YOU DETAIN HER UNTIL I WARM UP A FLYER FOR OUR ESCAPE!

I SAID FREEZE, VERMIS!
HE'S GOT ME OVER A BARREL! I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT HER --
--BUT UNTIL HE TELLS ME THE SECRET OF MY ORIGIN, I DON'T DARE LET HIM BE CAPTURED!

YOU CAN FLY? HYDRA'S DEVELOPING SOME RATHER FANCY ASSASSINS THESE DAYS!
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU! LET ME EXPLAIN...

UNHH!
JUST BE GLAD I DON'T WANT YOU DEAD, SPIDER-WOMAN!

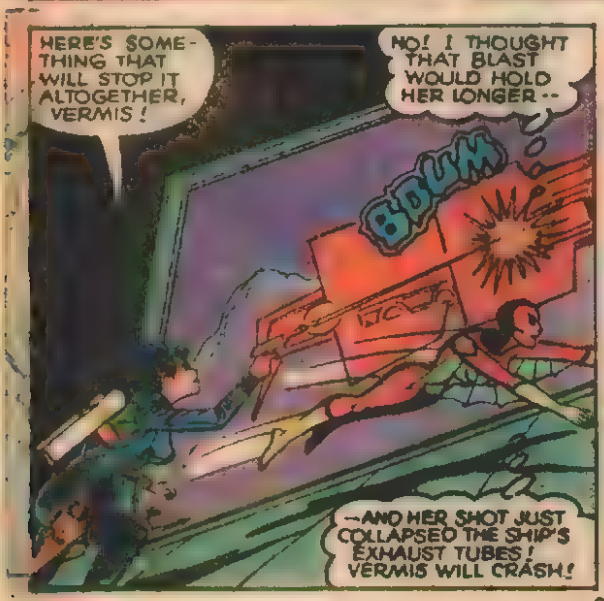

THE WHOLE WORLD IS GOING TO KNOW YOU FOR THE MURDERESS YOU ARE -- AFTER I BRING YOU IN FOR TRIAL!

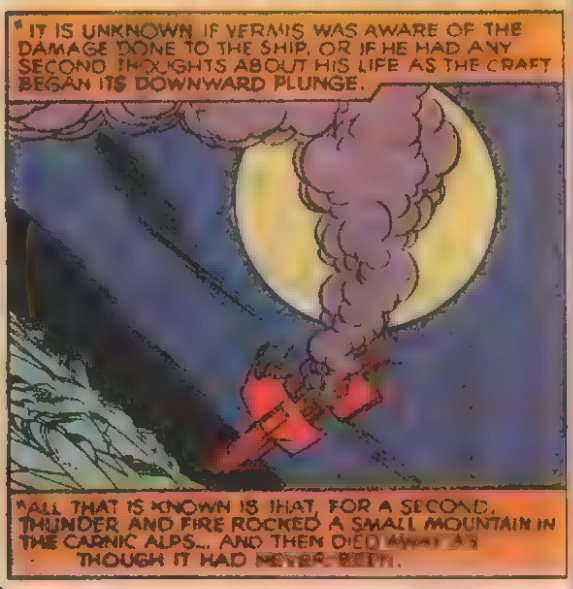
NOW WHICH WAY DID THAT SLIMY BOSS OF YOURS GO?

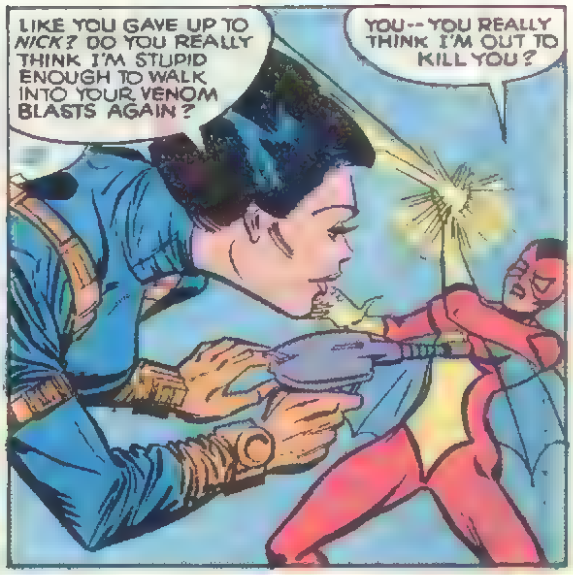
Ohhh!
ZAAT
I'M SORRY, CONTESSA... THIS VENOM-BLAST WON'T KILL YOU, BUT IT'LL SLOW YOU DOWN --

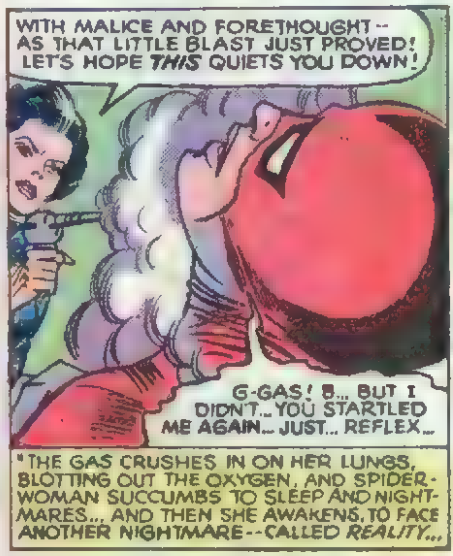
--LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET TO VERMIS!

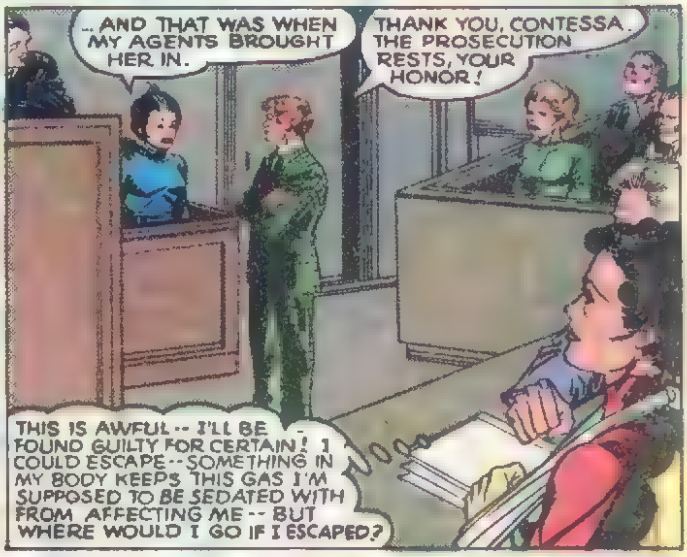
VERMIS! LET ME IN, BLAST YOU!
SORRY, MY DEAR, BUT I'VE DECIDED THAT YOU ARE EXPENDABLE!
YOU'D HARDLY BE RELIABLE ONCE YOU LEARNED THE TRUTH-- AND ANYWAY, THE EXTRA WEIGHT WOULD JUST SLOW THE SHIP DOWN!

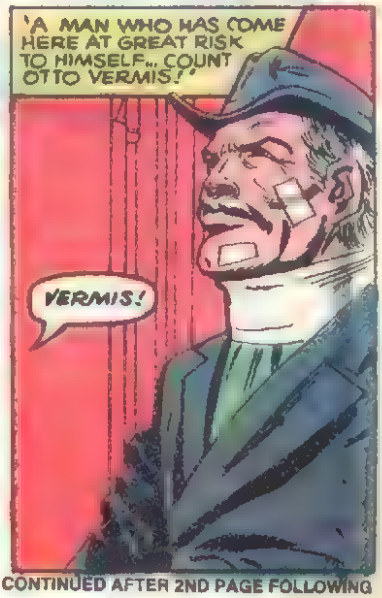

HERE'S SOME-THING THAT WILL STOP IT ALTOGETHER, VERMIS!
NO! I THOUGHT THAT BLAST WOULD HOLD HER LONGER --
BDUM
--AND HER SHOT JUST COLLAPSED THE SHIP'S EXHAUST TUBES! VERMIS WILL CRASH!


"IT IS UNKNOWN IF VERMIS WAS AWARE OF THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE SHIP, OR IF HE HAD ANY SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS LIFE AS THE CRAFT BEGAN ITS DOWNWARD PLUNGE.
"ALL THAT IS KNOWN IS THAT, FOR A SECOND, THUNDER AND FIRE ROCKED A SMALL MOUNTAIN IN THE CARNIC ALPS... AND THEN DIED AWAY AS THOUGH IT HAD NEVER BEEN.









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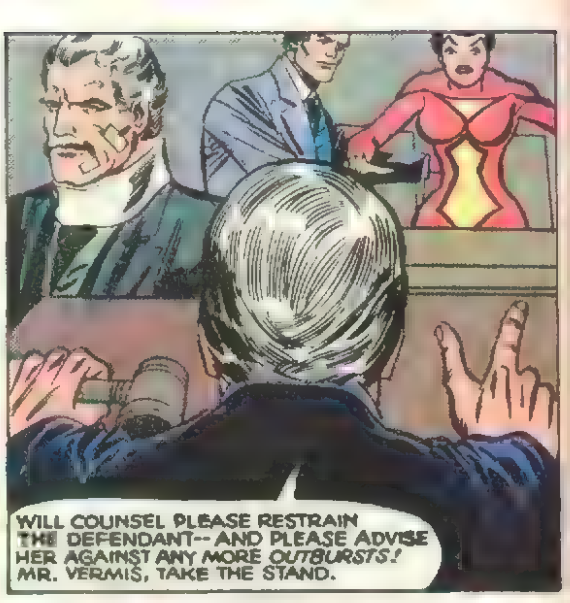
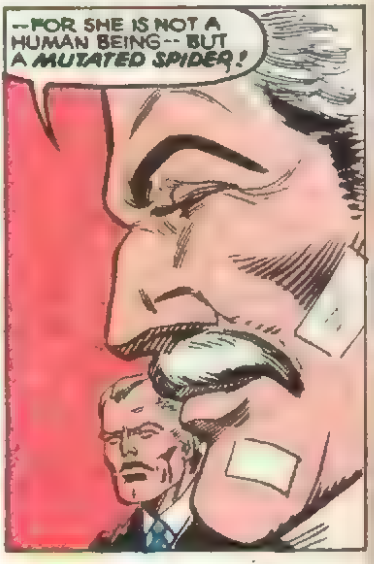
BUT... IF HE'S ALIVE... I CAN STILL FIND OUT WHO I REALLY AM!
ARACHNE! SIT DOWN! I TOLD YOU NOT TO TRY THAT INSANITY PLEA! YOU WON'T NEED IT!


WILL COUNSEL PLEASE RESTRAIN THE DEFENDANT-- AND PLEASE ADVISE HER AGAINST ANY MORE OUTBURSTS! MR. VERMIS, TAKE THE STAND.

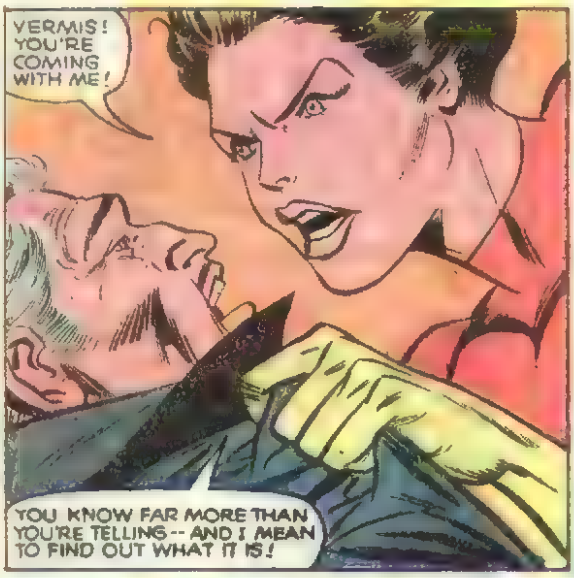
COUNT VERMIS, DO YOU KNOW THE DEFENDANT? IF SO, HOW?
I DO. SHE WAS IN MY EMPLOY FOR A SHORT TIME.

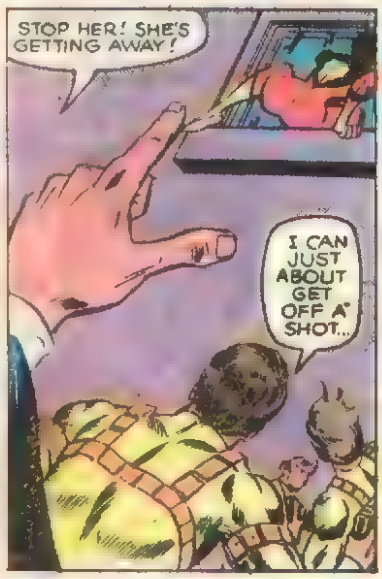
DURING THAT TIME, DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HAVE DIRECT BEARING ON THIS CASE?
I DID. THE WOMAN YOU CALL ARACHNE CANNOT BE LEGALLY TRIED IN A COURT OF LAW--

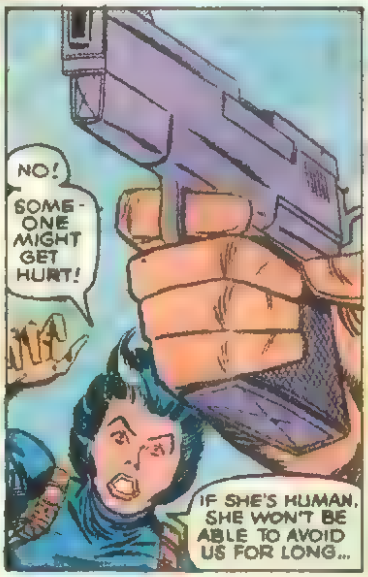

--FOR SHE IS NOT A HUMAN BEING-- BUT A MUTATED SPIDER!

NO! HE'S LYING! LOOK AT ME -- CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S LYING?
BE SILENT! BAILIFF, PLEASE RESTRAIN THE DEFENDANT, AND SEE THAT SHE CAUSES NO MORE DISTURBANCES IN THIS COURTROOM!

NO-- I WON'T BE RESTRAINED AGAIN!
NONE OF YOU CARES A THING ABOUT ME! THE ONLY WAY I'M GOING TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH IS IF I'M FREE...







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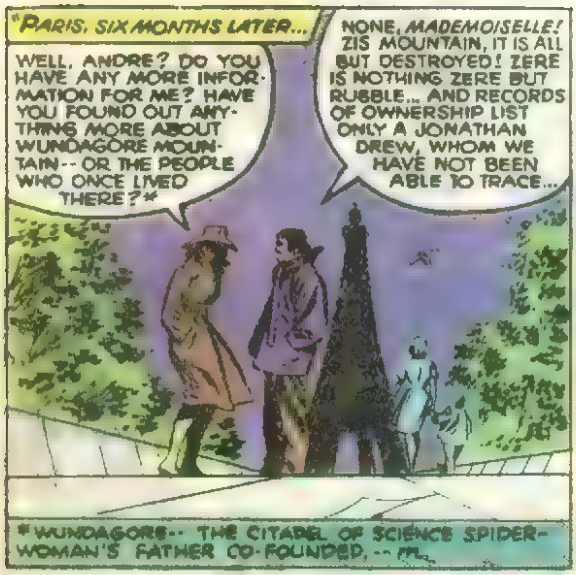

*PARIS, SIX MONTHS LATER...
WELL, ANDRE? DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE INFORMATION FOR ME? HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ANYTHING MORE ABOUT WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN -- OR THE PEOPLE WHO ONCE LIVED THERE?*
NONE, *MADEMOISELLE!* ZIS MOUNTAIN, IT IS ALL BUT DESTROYED! ZERE IS NOTHING ZERE BUT RUBBLE... AND RECORDS OF OWNERSHIP LIST ONLY A JONATHAN DREW, WHOM WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TRACE...
*WUNDAGORE -- THE CITADEL OF SCIENCE SPIDER-WOMAN'S FATHER CO-FOUNDED, -- ED.

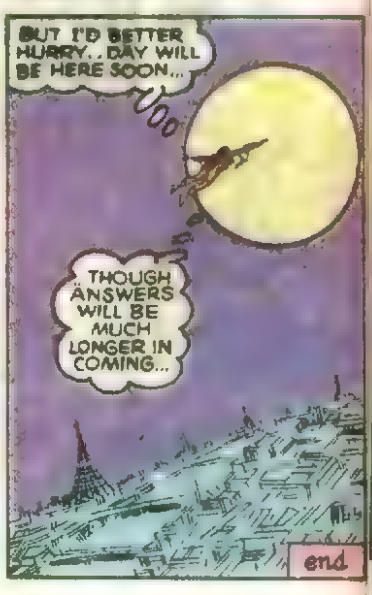
AH, *OUI*... ZERE IS ONE MORE THING, *MADEMOISELLE*...
WHAT'S THAT, ANDRE?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THE REWARD THAT *SHIELD* IS OFFERING FOR ME?
OR HAVE YOU ALREADY HEARD?
I MAY HAVE TO HIRE YOU CRIMINALS TO DO MY DIGGING FOR ME -- BUT DON'T THINK FOR A MOMENT THAT I *TRUST* ANY OF YOU!

BUT NOW *SHIELD* KNOWS I'M IN PARIS--
--AND WHEN ANDRE DOESN'T REPORT IN, THEY'LL BE OUT IN DROVES LOOKING FOR US!
STILL, THIS JONATHAN DREW WAS AN ANGLE I DIDN'T HAVE BEFORE! GOOD OLD ANDRE -- THINKING TO CHECK BILLS OF SALE ON THAT LAND.

NOW IT'S TIME TO PLAY FUGITIVE AGAIN, AND GET OUT OF PARIS BEFORE I'M CAUGHT.

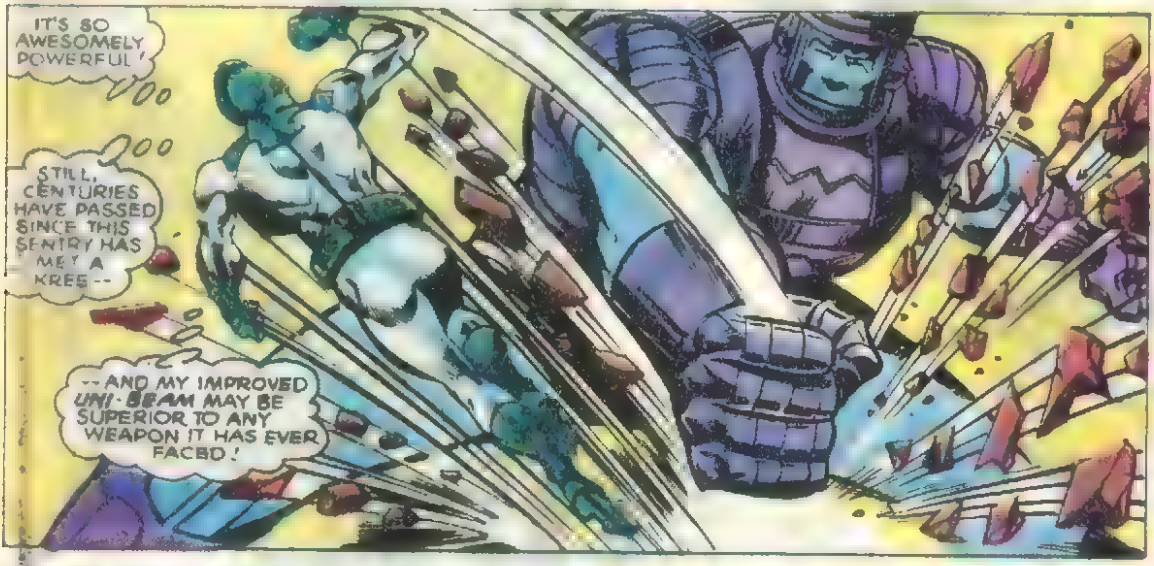
LONDON MIGHT BE A GOOD PLACE TO START -- THEY WON'T BE EXPECTING ME BACK THERE SO SOON!
WITH A FEW HOURS OF FLYING, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THE COAST...


BUT I'D BETTER HURRY.. DAY WILL BE HERE SOON...
THOUGH ANSWERS WILL BE MUCH LONGER IN COMING...
end

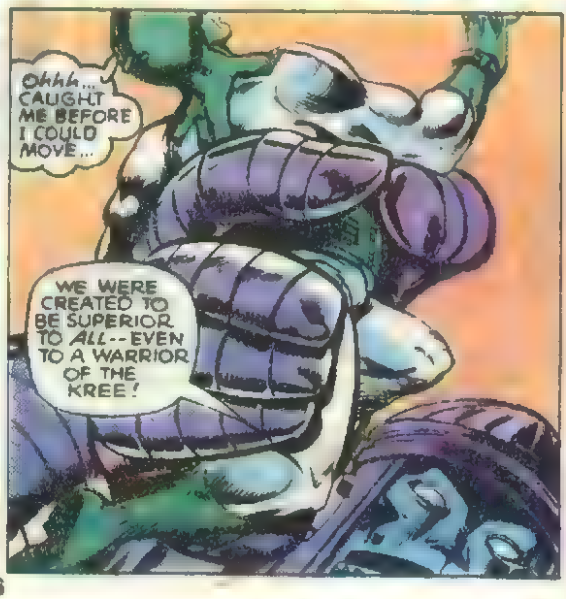
PART 3
CAPTAIN MARVEL
NOW WE TURN TO MAR-VELL, A CAPTAIN IN THE MILITIA OF THE STAR-SPANNING KREE, AT THE MOMENT OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGE TO HIS LOYALTY TO THEIR CAUSE. AS THEIR SPY ON EARTH, HE IS CAUGHT IN A DILEMMA HE CANNOT WIN.
MAR-VELL HAS NOT YET ALTERED HIS UNIFORM TO ITS MORE COLORFUL VERSION. HE HAS NOT YET ATTAINED COSMIC AWARENESS, NOR HAS HE YET BECOME THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. NOW, AS HE FACES THE ALMOST OMNIPOTENT KREE SENTRY, THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE TURN TOWARD HIM... AND WAIT...
HALT, SENTRY! I AM CAPTAIN MAR-VELL, OFFICER OF THE --
BE SILENT, MAN OF THE KREE -- TILL I KNOW IF YOU BE FRIEND... OR FOE!
FOR, KNOW YOU THIS: HE WHO WOULD OPPOSE ME -- MUST BE ANNIHILATED!
INKS: PABLO MARCOS
COLORS: BOB SHAREN

ONLY MY SUPERIOR, COLONEL YON-ROGO, COULD HAVE REACTIVATED THE SENTRY-- WHAT IN HALA COULD HE HAVE BEEN THINKING OF?
IF THE SENTRY DESTROYS THIS BASE, MY MISSION WILL BE A FAILURE--
--BUT IF I DESTROY THE SENTRY, I WILL BE A TRAITOR TO THE KREE!

YOUR HESITATION CONDEMNS YOU, MAN OF THE KREE! MY PROGRAM CANNOT BE ALTERED--
--AND I AM PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY THIS BASE, EVEN IF YOU MUST BE DESTROYED WITH IT!

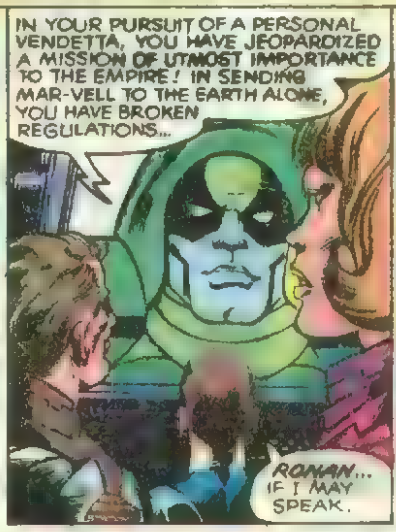

IT'S SO AWESOMELY POWERFUL!
STILL, CENTURIES HAVE PASSED SINCE THIS SENTRY HAS MET A KREE--
--AND MY IMPROVED UNI-BEAM MAY BE SUPERIOR TO ANY WEAPON IT HAS EVER FACED!

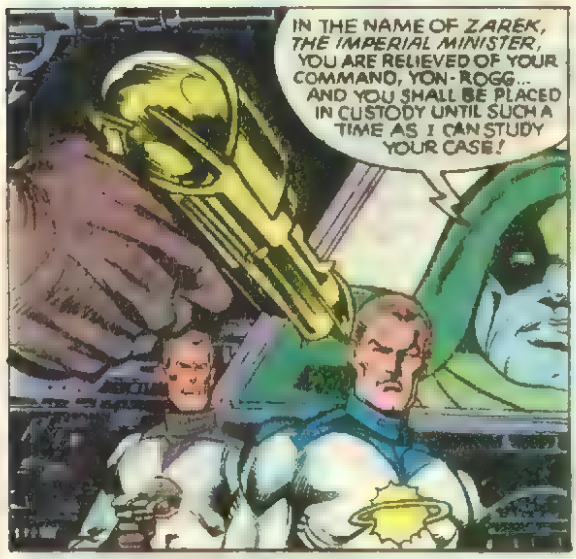
YOU'VE FORCED ME TO STOP YOU, SENTRY #459!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, CAPTAIN MAR-VELL! NO WEAPON MADE CAN STOP A SENTRY!

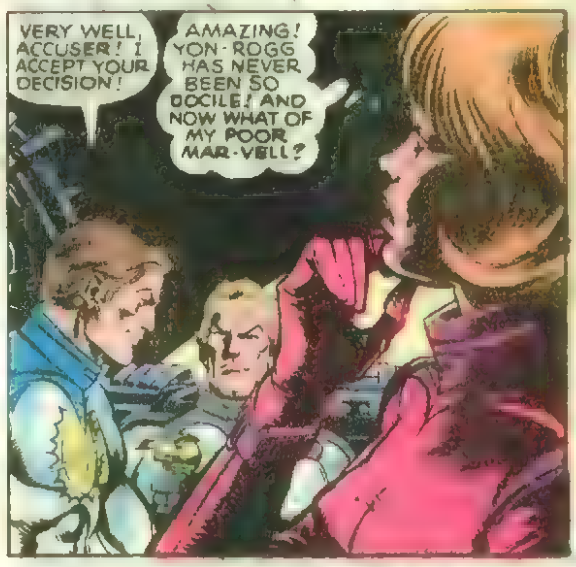

Ohhh... CAUGHT ME BEFORE I COULD MOVE...
WE WERE CREATED TO BE SUPERIOR TO ALL--EVEN TO A WARRIOR OF THE KREE!

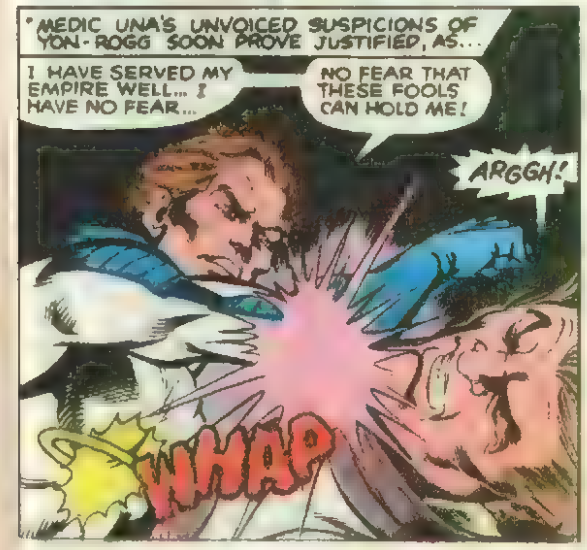
"AS THE BATTLE RAGES BELOW, ANOTHER CONFLICT TAKES PLACE...ON THE *KREE SPACESHIP* ORBITING HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH. YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY SEEN WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YON-ROGG'S TRANSGRESSIONS WERE OVERLOOKED BY HIS SUPERIORS.* NOW WITNESS A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE...

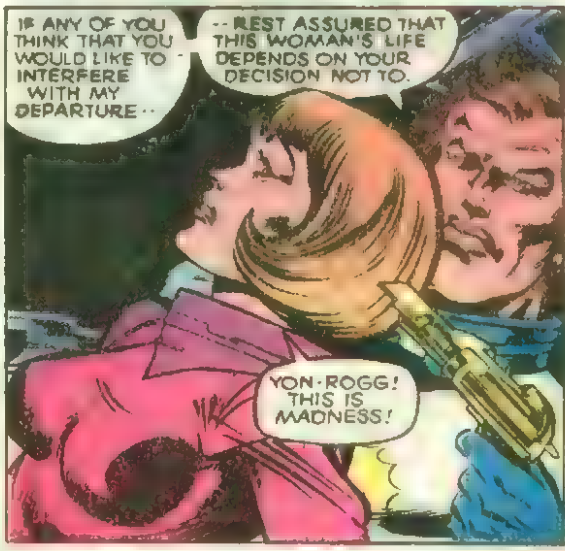
*MARVEL SUPERHEROES #12-13.

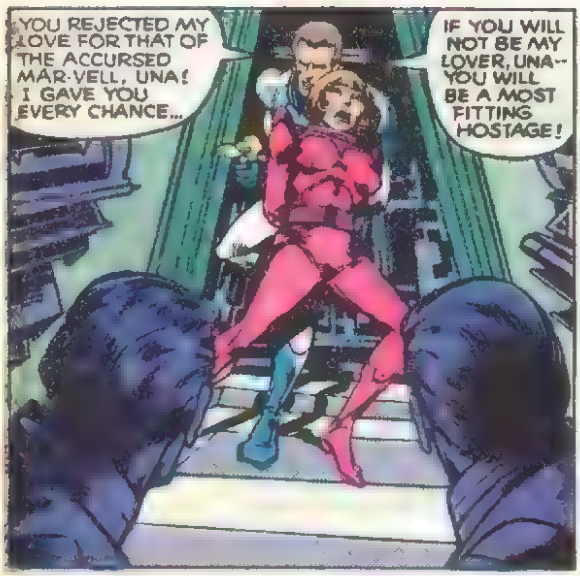




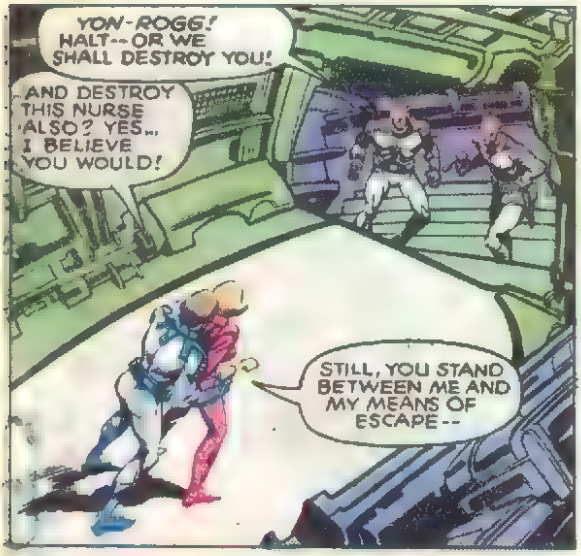




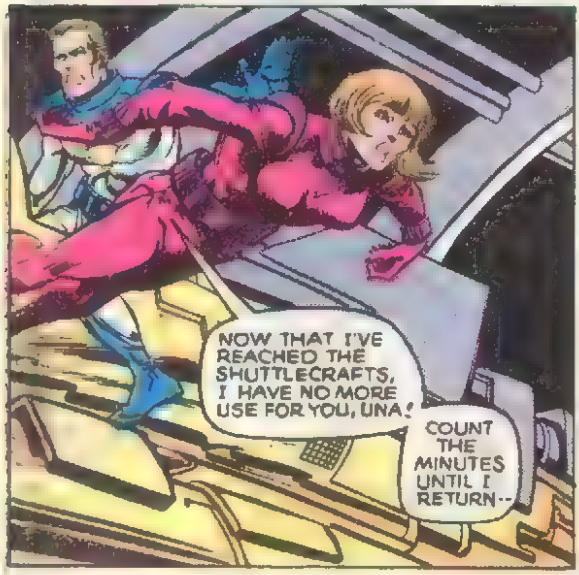



YOU REJECTED MY LOVE FOR THAT OF THE ACCURSED MAR-VELL, UNA! I GAVE YOU EVERY CHANCE...
IF YOU WILL NOT BE MY LOVER, UNA-- YOU WILL BE A MOST FITTING HOSTAGE!

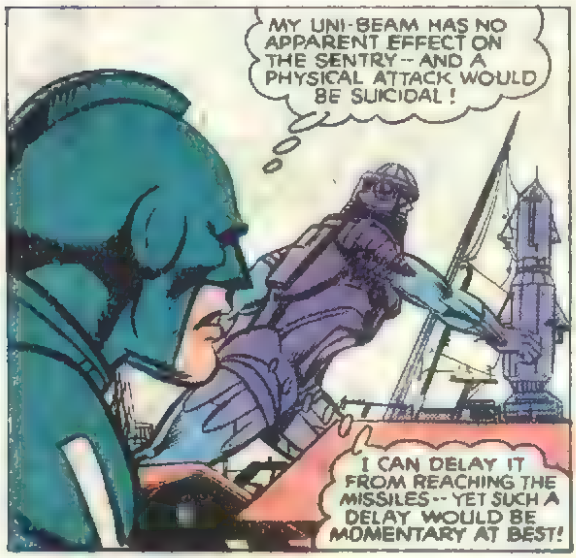
YON-ROGG... YON-ROGG... YOU CANNOT HOPE TO ESCAPE THE JUSTICE OF *RONAN, THE PUBLIC ACCUSER.*
RUNNING WILL NOT HELP YOU...
BY CAUSING ME TO COME TO EARTH-- TO TAKE A *DIRECT* HAND IN YOUR CASE-- YOU BRING UPON YOURSELF A MOST TERRIBLE SENTENCE...

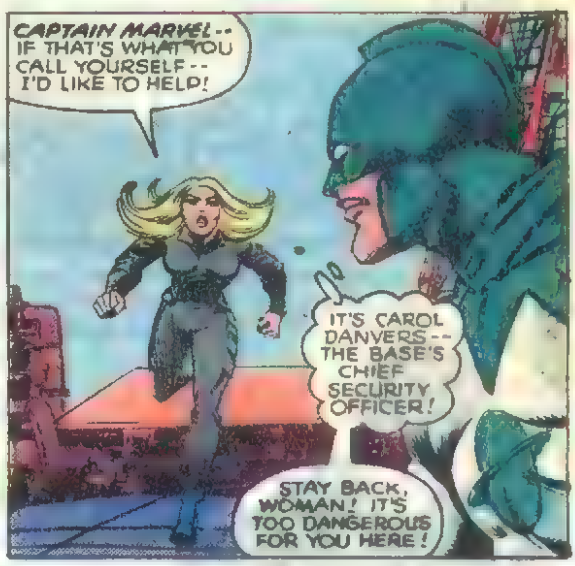

YON-ROGG! HALT-- OR WE SHALL DESTROY YOU!
AND DESTROY THIS NURSE ALSO? YES... I BELIEVE YOU WOULD!
STILL, YOU STAND BETWEEN ME AND MY MEANS OF ESCAPE--

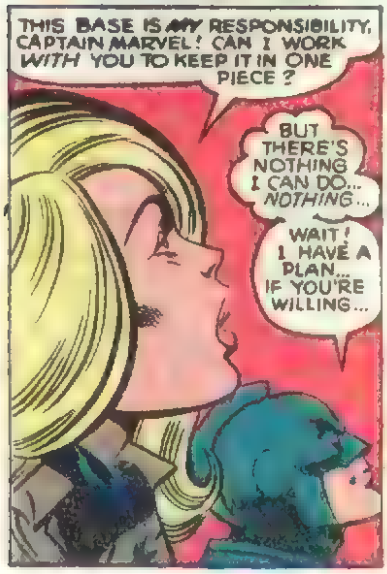
-- AND COMPOUNDING MY CRIME WILL NOT ALTER THE PUNISHMENT!
COLONEL! *NO--!*
GOODBYE, GENTLEMEN!
ZZAT

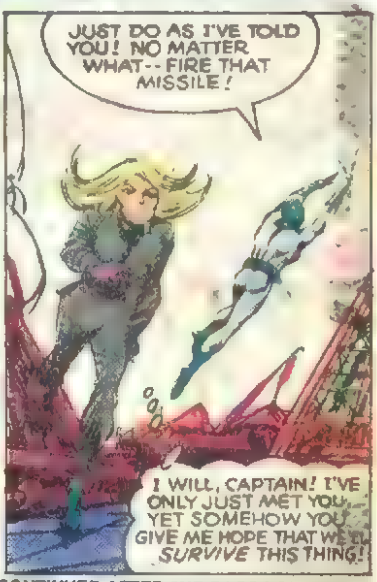

NOW THAT I'VE REACHED THE SHUTTLECRAFTS, I HAVE NO MORE USE FOR YOU, UNA!
COUNT THE MINUTES UNTIL I RETURN--

-- WITH THE CORPSE OF CAPTAIN MAR-VELL!
"AS YON-ROGG HURTLES TO EARTH, THE OBJECT OF HIS JOURNEY IS NOT YET AWARE OF ANY MALEVOLENT INTENTIONS TOWARD HIM...









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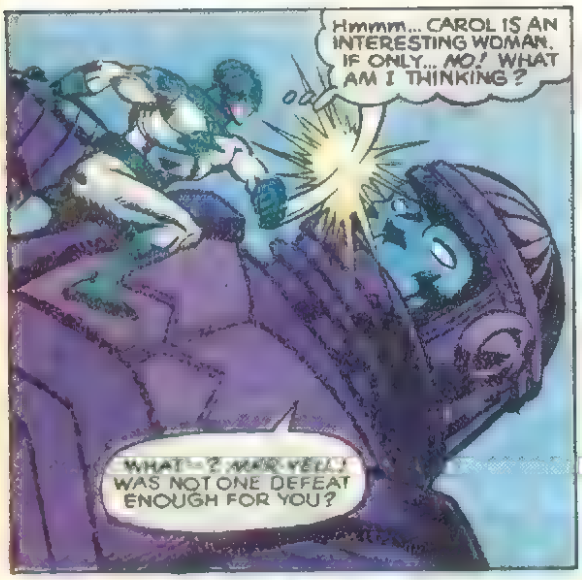
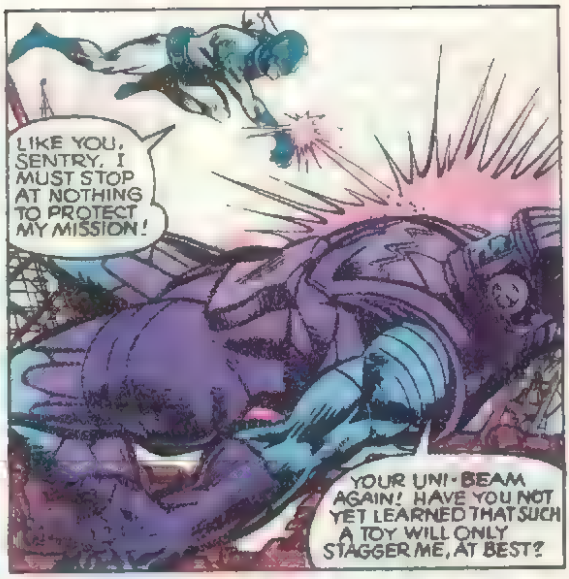
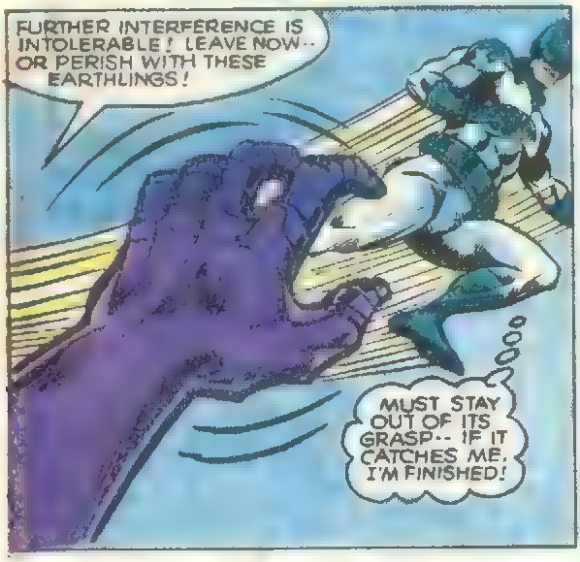
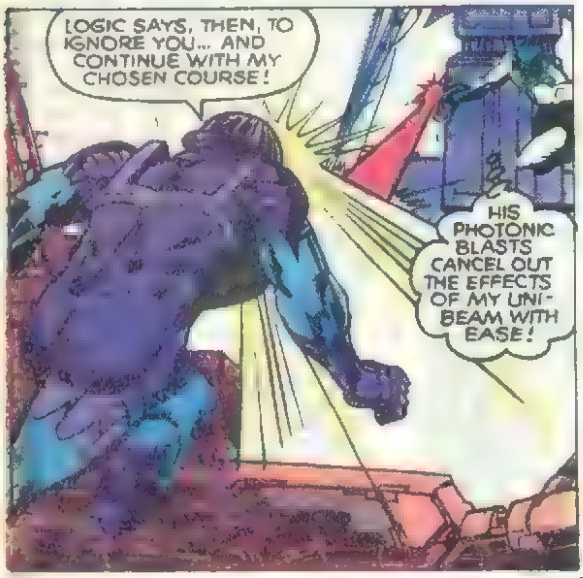

Hmmm... CAROL IS AN INTERESTING WOMAN. IF ONLY... NO! WHAT AM I THINKING?
WHAT--? MAR-VELL! WAS NOT ONE DEFEAT ENOUGH FOR YOU?


LIKE YOU, SENTRY, I MUST STOP AT NOTHING TO PROTECT MY MISSION!
YOUR UNI-BEAM AGAIN! HAVE YOU NOT YET LEARNED THAT SUCH A TOY WILL ONLY STAGGER ME, AT BEST?

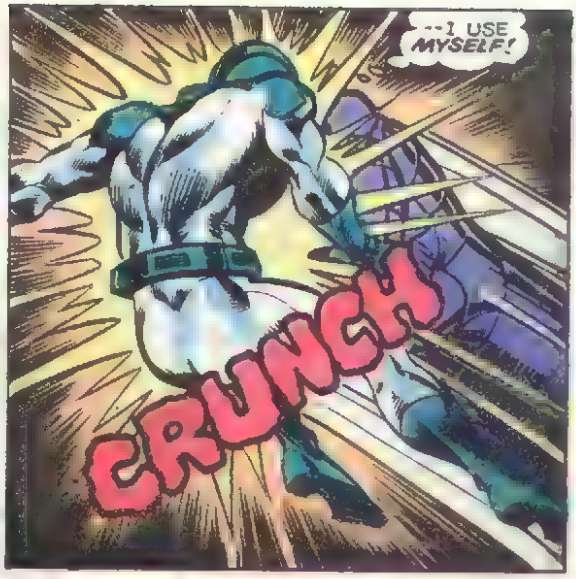

FURTHER INTERFERENCE IS INTOLERABLE! LEAVE NOW-- OR PERISH WITH THESE EARTHLINGS!
MUST STAY OUT OF ITS GRASP-- IF IT CATCHES ME, I'M FINISHED!

I AM DONE TOYING WITH YOU, SENTRY! IT IS YOU WHO SHALL FALL TODAY-- NOT I!
YOU CANNOT STOP ME WITH WORDS, MAR-VELL! I KNOW YOU PRESENT YOURSELF AS A DECOY, SO THAT I WILL FORGET THE MISSILES!


LOGIC SAYS, THEN, TO IGNORE YOU... AND CONTINUE WITH MY CHOSEN COURSE!
HIS PHOTONIC BLASTS CANCEL OUT THE EFFECTS OF MY UNI-BEAM WITH EASE!

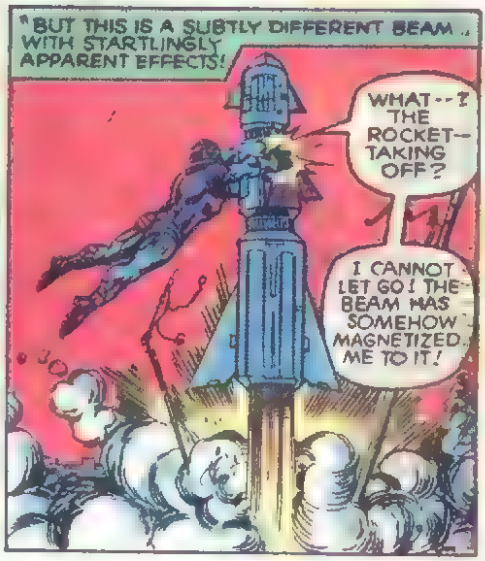
I CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE THE UNI BEAM'S PRECIOUS POWER ANY LONGER-- OR THERE WILL BE NONE LEFT FOR THE CRUCIAL MOMENT!
YET THERE IS A MINUTE LEFT-- SIXTY SECONDS IN WHICH THE BASE IS LEFT DEFENSELESS!

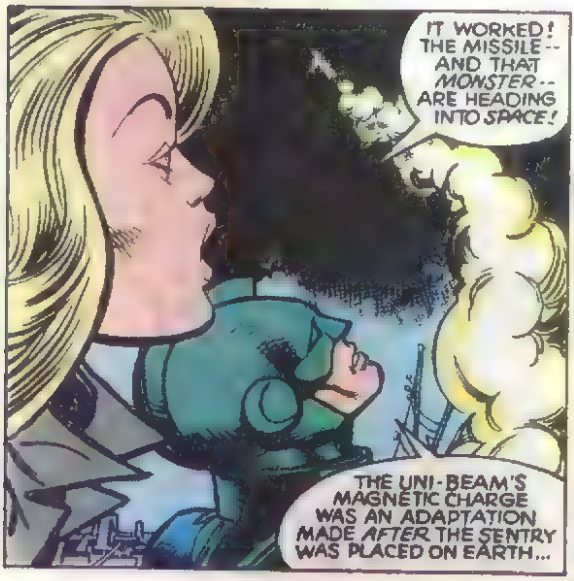
FAREWELL, MAR-VELL! I CAN SURVIVE THE COMING EXPLOSION-- BUT YOU, MOST ASSUREDLY, WILL NOT!
NO WAY TO STOP THE SENTRY FROM STRIKING THAT MISSILE, UNLESS--

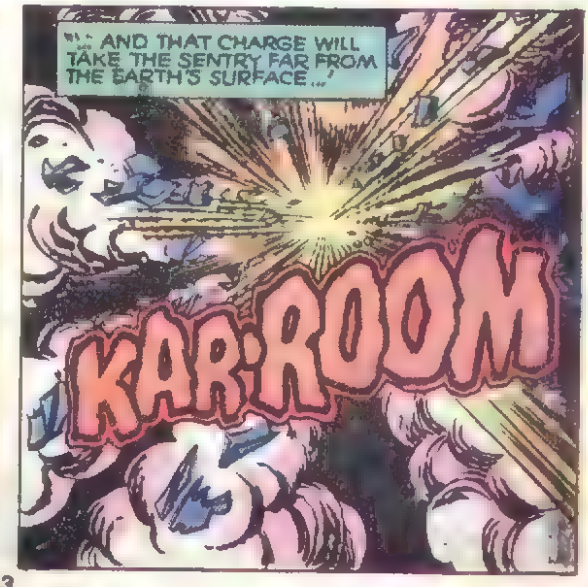

--I USE MYSELF!
CRUNCH

N-NO... CAN'T PASS OUT... IT'S ALMOST TIME...
CAPTAIN MARVEL! THE MISSILE IS PRIMED! WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING--
--DO IT NOW!

"SUDDENLY, THE UNI-BEAM STABS OUT AGAIN, BATHING THE SENTRY IN ITS GLOW..
"...AND THE SENTRY LAUGHS!

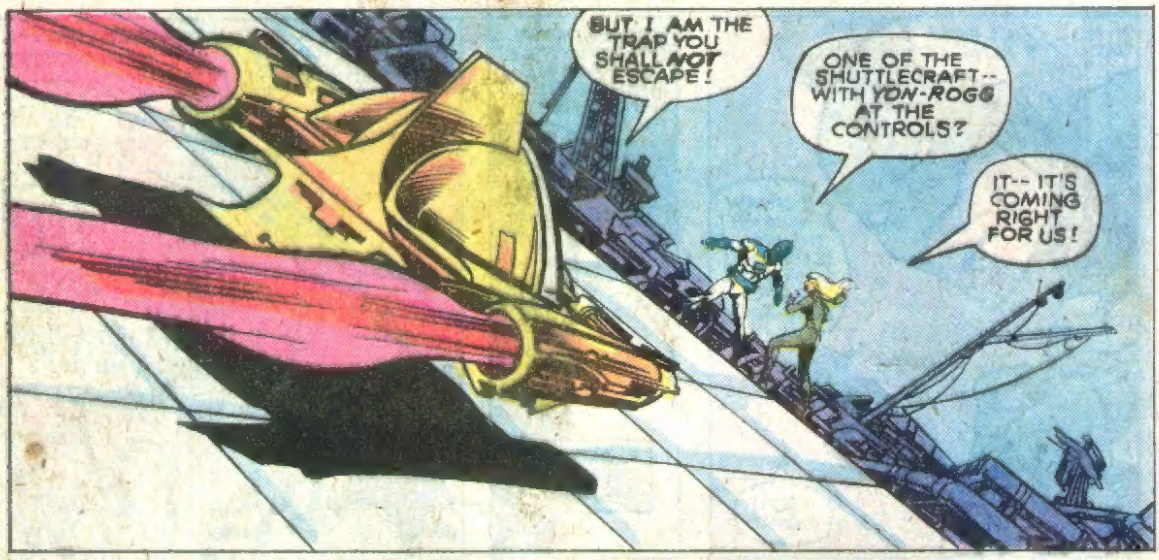

"BUT THIS IS A SUBTLY DIFFERENT BEAM... WITH STARTLINGLY APPARENT EFFECTS!
WHAT--? THE ROCKET-- TAKING OFF?
I CANNOT LET GO! THE BEAM HAS SOMEHOW MAGNETIZED ME TO IT!


IT WORKED! THE MISSILE-- AND THAT MONSTER-- ARE HEADING INTO SPACE!
THE UNI-BEAM'S MAGNETIC CHARGE WAS AN ADAPTATION MADE AFTER THE SENTRY WAS PLACED ON EARTH...


"... AND THAT CHARGE WILL TAKE THE SENTRY FAR FROM THE EARTH'S SURFACE..."
KAR-ROOM

"...WHERE THE RESULTANT EXPLOSION WILL NULLIFY IT -- AND THE SENTRY WILL BE SAFE FROM THE PRYING EYES OF EARTH'S SCIENTISTS -- WHILE MY OWN MISSION REMAINS INTACT!"

VERY CLEVER, MAR-VELL. DESPITE ALL MY CAREFUL SCHEMING, YOU HAVE TURNED THESE EVENTS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!

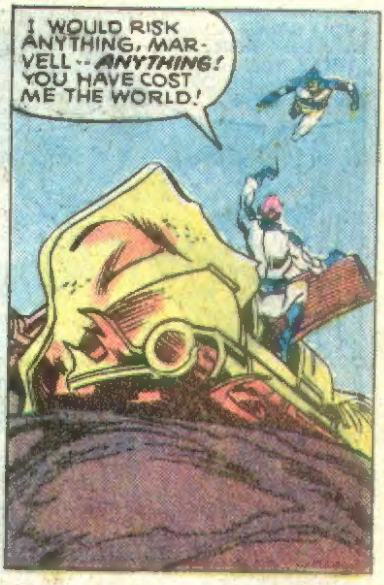

BUT I AM THE TRAP YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE!
ONE OF THE SHUTTLECRAFT -- WITH YON-ROGG AT THE CONTROLS?
IT -- IT'S COMING RIGHT FOR US!

COME, MAR-VELL! IT'S TIME TO END OUR RIVALRY -- AND YOU WITH IT!
CAROL! GET DOWN!

WELL, THAT'S TWICE NOW YOU'VE SAVED MY --
CAPTAIN MARVEL! PLEASE -- WAIT!
"BUT MAR-VELL HAS ALREADY FORGOTTEN CAROL DANVERS -- AS HE FOLLOWS IN HOT PURSUIT OF YON-ROGG!

I STILL HAVE ENOUGH POWER IN MY UN-BEAM TO STOP THE SHUTTLECRAFT...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, YON-ROGG?

IS YOUR HATRED OF ME SO GREAT YOU WOULD ENDANGER BOTH OF US... AND RISK MY EXPOSURE?
CRASH


I WOULD RISK ANYTHING, MAR-VELL -- ANYTHING! YOU HAVE COST ME THE WORLD!

BECAUSE OF YOU, UNA HAS SPURNED MY LOVE!
BECAUSE OF YOU, I HAVE LOST MY COMMAND -- AND MY FUTURE -- AND YOU SHALL PAY FOR THAT!

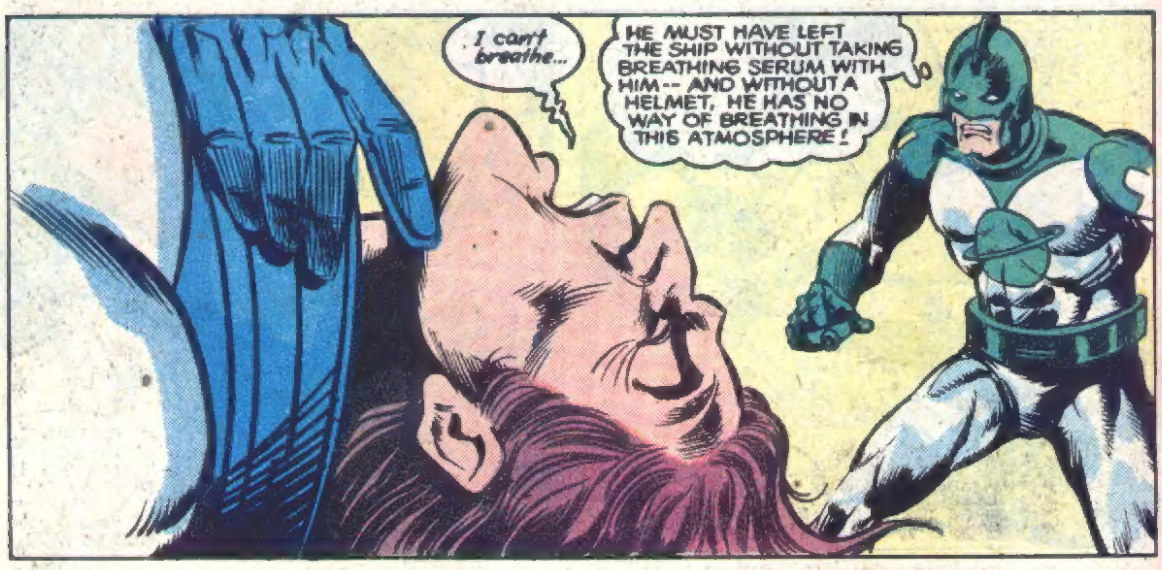
YOU RAVE, YON-ROGG! YOU HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY YOUR OWN MAD AMBITIONS -- NOT BY ME!

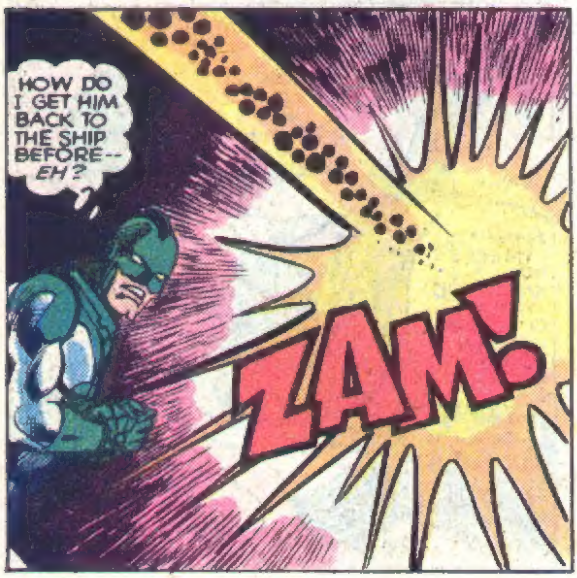
Y-YES... YOU ARE RIGHT! I SURRENDER, MAR-VELL!

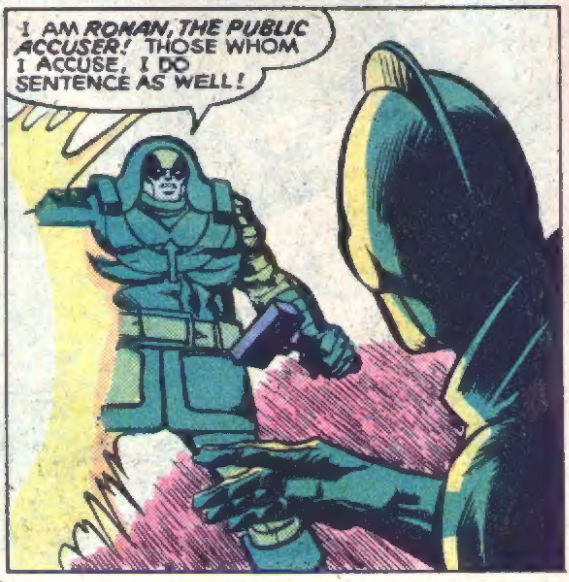
HAH! YOU GUILELESS FOOL! I KNEW YOU WOULD COME NEAR ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO THIS --!
UHHHN!?

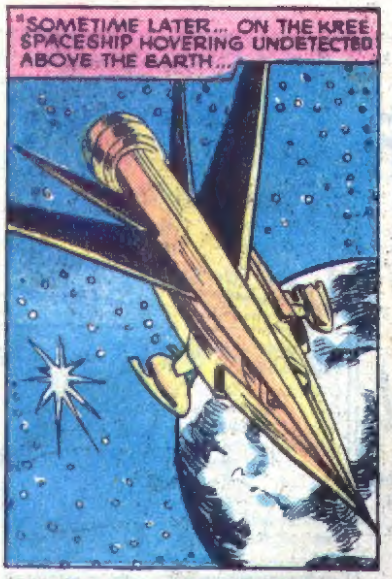
YOU WERE ALWAYS MY INFERIOR, MAR-VELL... YOU HAVEN'T MY CUNNING OR INTELLIGENCE...
NOW I DESTROY YOU--WITH YOUR OWN UNI-BEAM...
TOO WORN... FROM MY FIGHT WITH THE SENTRY... TO STOP HIM...

NOW I WILL REDEEM MYSELF, MAR-VELL, FOR EVERYONE WILL KNOW I'M YOUR SUPERIOR!
NOW I... I...
...my lungs...!


I can't breathe...
HE MUST HAVE LEFT THE SHIP WITHOUT TAKING BREATHING SERUM WITH HIM-- AND WITHOUT A HELMET, HE HAS NO WAY OF BREATHING IN THIS ATMOSPHERE!


HOW DO I GET HIM BACK TO THE SHIP BEFORE-- EH?
ZAM!


I AM RONAN, THE PUBLIC ACCUSER! THOSE WHOM I ACCUSE, I DO SENTENCE AS WELL!


"SOMETIME LATER... ON THE KREE SPACESHIP HOVERING UNDETECTED ABOVE THE EARTH...

HAIL, MAR-VELL -- AND HEAR THE WORDS OF ZAREK, THE IMPERIAL MINISTER...
WE HAVE STUDIED THE RECENT EVENTS ON THE PLANET KNOWN AS THE EARTH.

IT IS OUR FINDING THAT YOU HAVE HANDLED YOURSELF WITH UTMOST SKILL AND INGENUITY.

AS YOU KNOW, YOUR MISSION IS ONE OF EXTREME SENSITIVITY AND OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF THE EMPIRE. THE EARTHLINGS ARE A VERY FORBIDDING RACE...
IT IS YOUR MISSION TO STUDY THESE PRIMITIVE BEINGS -- SO THAT WE MAY PREDICT WHERE THEIR CIVILIZATION WILL LEAD THEM, AND TAKE STEPS TO NEUTRALIZE THEM SHOULD THEY APPEAR A THREAT!

IT IS OUR DECISION THAT YOU ARE MOST QUALIFIED TO HANDLE OUR INTERESTS HERE. IT IS IN YOUR HANDS THAT WE PLACE THIS MISSION --
COLONEL MAR-VELL!
THANK YOU, SIR! I WILL ENDEAVOR TO BE WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST!

I AM PROUD OF YOU, MY DARLING! BUT -- WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS FOR THE PLANET EARTH?
MY LOYALTIES LIE WITH THE EMPIRE, UNA. IF THE EARTHLINGS INDEED PROVE TO BE A MENACE TO THE KREE --

-- THEN LET THE EARTHLINGS BEWARE!
"AND, IN THIS REALITY, A DOOR SILENTLY SHUTS ON THE EARTH..."
end